MANUAL

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

JULY, 1883.

METHODIST CONNECTIONAL ENTERPRISES.

BY THE REV. DANIEL CURRY, LL.D.

DURING its first half century American Methodism was chiefly "a voice crying in the wilderness," or like the Apocalyptic "angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell upon the face of the earth." Its heralds went forth literally "without purse or scrip," and its vision was uniformly toward the regions beyond; its care was for new acquisitions much more than for what was already gained. But as the time passed on, and large acquisitions were made, its very success modified its methods of action; for what had been gained must now be conserved and perfected. Accordingly its ministry, which at first was exclusively evangelistic, became also pastoral, and the work of edifying the believers was added to that of calling sinners to repentance. The transition in the work, and consequently the character of the Methodist ministry that resulted from these changed conditions, was a very considerable one, and its process not entirely free from danger. Wise and far-seeing men asked, doubtingly, whether it was possible to unite in the same ministry the specific functions of the evangelist and the pastor. More than half a century ago an English Churchman remarked, "Methodism has gone to its parishes," evidently considering that fact as a sure prophecy that it was losing its aggressive character; and what such men contemplated, perhaps without regrets, as almost sure to result from the changed condition of things, those more intimately concerned with the work dreaded as a possible contingency.

From the beginning it was the distinctive characteristic of the Wesleyan portion of the original Methodist mass—while

as yet it was simply an inorganic body of spiritually vitalized individuals—not only to bring the people to the exercise of repentance and faith in Christ, but also to care for its converts, and to train them up in practical godliness. For that purpose organizations became a necessity, and the labors of the ministry, instead of continuing to be exclusively evangelistic, must need become, at least in part, pastoral, with a constant tendency in the latter to crowd out the former. Perhaps this danger has not been entirely avoided, but both interests have been all along recognized, and the effort has been steadily made to unite in the same body both of these forms of Christian activity. The tendency of all local churches — congregations — is to self-protection, and the edifying of themselves, both spiritually and temporally; their members have their faces turned inward, and by a sure and somewhat forceful inclination, the special and local interests of religion tend to rise above those that are general and world-wide. It cannot then be denied that the local churches are the seats of power, through whose aid the more diffusive work of the general Church must be performed—the ganglions in which the spiritual nerve-power is developed, and from which it is diffused through the general, the ideal, Church; and therefore any general and permanently effective system of evangelistic action must be held in close and vital union with the local churches. Hence the necessity for an all-pervading connectionalism, which, without doing any violence to the proper individuality of the particular or local churches, shall enable the whole associated body to act together in carrying the Gospel to the great outlying masses of the people—the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

The entire Church as it exists in the world, and also each local church, are the fruits of evangelistic labors; and, since it is the design of the Head of the Church that it shall fill the whole earth, the evangelistic office of the Christian ministry is not only primary in time, but also perpetual in its practical agencies; and as the general Church is seen in the form of many local bodies of believers, so must its effectiveness proceed from those; and still further, as the business of the ministry, and of the general Church, is not simply conservative and defensive, but also diffusive and aggressive, their appliances

and methods must be ordered in view of expansion and the ingathering of those who are beyond the existing inclosures. It is not enough to "hold the fort," but sallies and raids into the world without must be provided for and systematically made.

ORIGIN OF THESE ENTERPRISES.

All these things were duly appreciated, though not so much speculatively, and with a preconceived theory, as practically and effectively, by those who, under the direction of the divine Spirit, shaped the working orders of our Methodism—often, no doubt, building better than they knew. The advent of the great benevolent institutions of the Methodist Episcopal Church was not merely a result of men's wisdom and ingenuity, nor were they originated in emulation of the works of others. They came as the plants and flowers of the springtime, because the fullness of the time had come; the Church was prepared for the work, and the world called for their ministries. The missionary and his works were before the Missionary Society, and so in all the departments of the Church's organized activities. The various associations that now embody and direct the several specific departments of our Church work did not originate the work with which they are occupied; they are simply organisms through which the general Church performs its great mission. It should be always remembered that our benevolences are older and broader than the "Societies" and "Boards" that now care for them. They spring out of the essential spirit of the Gospel, and are developed as spontaneous outgrowths of the living Church, and they become organic in obedience to that great law of being by which, through natural and normal processes, the greatest wants tend to work out their own provisions.

When, through the fruitful labors of the itinerancy, its work had outgrown its methods, the Missionary Society was organized to respond to its necessities. The home Church had become a great empire; but its constituent local churches, organized as all living bodies are, with special reference to self-preservation and well-being, needed some way by which to extend their own life and blessings to others; and to meet this need the Missionary Society was instituted,—itself simply the Methodist Episcopal Church, in its aggregate unity, acting

through its own agencies for spreading the Gospel among all the families of mankind. With our denomination, however the case may be with others, its benevolent institutions are not distinct organisms, auxiliary to the Church, but simply boards of direction and control, charged chiefly with certain designated executive duties, as the agents of the denomination; as Societies, they consist of the entire membership of the particular churches which together make up the great unity of our Methodism. And as is the case with the Missionary Society, so each of the other organizations came into being in response to some recognized necessity. The Tract Society is to aid in carrying religious reading to the people; the Sunday-School Union serves to more effectually forward certain common interests of the Sunday-school work in the churches; the Freedmen's Aid Society came in answer to the unuttered call of the newly emancipated race for whose benefit it exists; the demand for places of worship, especially among the poor and on the frontiers, gave rise to the Board of Church Extension, and the wide-spread and various common interests of the denomination in the work of education called for the Education Society. All these are simply the Church's agencies for doing its own appropriate work, and not outside and independent bodies co-operating with the Church. This view of the subject, which is the only correct one, greatly simplifies our conception of the matter, and shows the intimate relations of all our Church benevolences to the Church in its organic unity, so assuring efficiency of action and fidelity in the fulfillment of the appointed trusts. Each one of these bodies exists because the Church is engaged in the prosecution of her great mission in the work which these are designed to forward; they do not originate their own work—that arises out of the Church's own activities—but they stand as ready agencies, with their appropriate means and methods, to accomplish the needed work. As far as they aid in doing the Church's work, they deserve its confidence and support; their doing this is their only reason for existing.

CONSEQUENT OBLIGATIONS.

This is not the time or the occasion to plead the cause of any one of the interests named. As they have come into the

forms in which we now see them in response to certain manifestly felt wants, it may be inferred that each one is closely allied to the practical workings of the Church's agencies, and therefore to permit any one of them to fail for lack of support, pecuniary or otherwise, would be to detract from the effectiveness of the work itself. Though the several fields they are designed to occupy differ widely among themselves, both in their breadth and in their immediate spiritual relations, and therefore some call for larger resources than others, and also come into closer sympathy with our religious sensibilities, yet all belong to the same great whole, and contribute alike to the common interests of Christ's kingdom in the world. And so each, in its proper proportion, is entitled to our confidence and support, our prayers and our pecuniary contributions.

The special adaptedness of our ecclesiastical organization to the furtherance of united Church work appears in the views here presented, uniting as it does, in a high degree, simplicity and effectiveness,—doing its work with marked thoroughness and with the least possible expenditure of money and labor. Our Church's great enterprises invite the most searching scrutiny into their character and works, as well as the cheerful and liberal support of the people. But to secure this there must be an intelligent appreciation of the work, not only as a scheme of future action, but also and especially in respect to what has already been accomplished. Our Church enterprises are not only projects for the future, but they have each its own history and the record of its achievements, which attest its capabilities and demonstrate its efficiency. And because of the work done by them as effective agencies they have passed beyond the experimental stage, and have become tried and attested facts and potent institutions, so giving assurance of their future efficiency. As a means by which to bring the mind and heart of the whole Church into an intelligent sympathy with these great movements the widest and fullest knowledge of what they have done and are doing is especially to be desired, and for that purpose the published reports, circulars, and other forms of information, either issued by the several Boards or published in the Church periodicals, afford the requisite facilities. The immediate necessity for all

these great interests is a wider and more adequate acquaintance, among the ministers and churches, with the work in hand; a due conception of the magnitude of the Church's operations; and the practical efficiency and fruitfulness which characterizes the work that is being done.

It is further to be desired that each and all of these Church beneficences shall be considered both as properly individualized agencies, and also as mutually dependent parts of a whole, sustaining each other. The Missionary work, standing foremost, is in the home field directly seconded and sustained by the work of Church Extension and of the Freedmen's Aid Society; and in the foreign field by the work of the Tract and Sunday-School Boards, and still more directly by that of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society; and so, throughout the whole range of the Church's organized agencies, there is a common interdependence — all are mutually helpful, and the healthy action of each is essential to the efficiency of the whole.

Assuming that the heart of the Church is sympathetically enlisted in the work of spreading the light and power of the Gospel in the world, the next great requisite is to have the needed agencies practically engaged for the accomplishment of the work. At the nearer end of the line stands the Church —its hundreds of thousands of converted men and women, all of them instinct with the spirit of Christ, and praying for the salvation of all men; and at the other are the executive and dispensing Boards, engaged in carrying out in practical efforts these Christlike designs. Between these, and in contact with both, are the local churches, with their pastors, and official boards, and Sunday-schools, and female agencies, through which the prayers and liberality of the people may be directed and concentrated upon this great object; and so the executive Boards shall be duly supplied with the requisite means for efficient action, each in its proper place. The machinery of the system is complete, as to its general design, and yet so flexible as to admit of ready adjustment if necessary. The successful action of the whole must, however, finally depend upon the spiritual forces operating among the people, and manifesting themselves in their *faith* and GOOD WORKS.

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THE NORTH INDIA CONFERENCE, JANUARY 10–16, 1883.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

VISIT OF DR. REID TO THE MISSIONS IN BULGARIA AND INDIA.

Being a Report to the Board of Managers.

The following report of a visitation to the missions in India, made in pursuance of the directions of the Board, is respectfully submitted.

When about prepared to step on shipboard, I learned that the session of the Conferences in India, and that of the annual meeting in Bulgaria, had been postponed, and that it might therefore be possible, by hastening down the Danube, to be at the annual meeting in Bulgaria, and yet reach India so as to fully serve the objects contemplated by the proposed visit there. As the Board had requested me to add this mission to those visited last year, which I had found it impossible to do, I assumed that to take it on my route to India would, under the circumstances, meet your approbation. My effort in this failed in part. I reached Sistoff just as the annual meeting adjourned, but I found that the Bishop and the entire mission, with the exception of one individual, had determined to accompany me to Rustchuk, and furnish me with a full account of their proceedings, discussions, and conclusions. This they kindly did, and I freely and fully canvassed the whole subject with them. I regret my inability to have given the country a closer personal inspection, but with this exception my opportunities for information and forming a judgment, perhaps, could not have been very greatly enlarged.

As you know, the Principality of Bulgaria is bounded east by the Black Sea and west by Servia, and extends from the Balkans on the south to the Danube on the north. It is some 300 miles long by about 80 broad, and has a population of some 1,500,000. Sixty-five per cent. of the people are Bulgarians, 25 per cent. Turks, and the remaining 10 per cent.

miscellaneous. The Bulgarians are, almost without exception, of the Greek Church, a form of Christianity in general corrupt and debasing, but here at its very worst. No one could pass through the length of the very best part of this land, as I did, without being impressed with its great need of a high intelligence and a pure and elevating Gospel. We are, in effect, the only evangelical body occupying this field, a like field south of the Balkans having been for many years successfully worked by our Presbyterian and Congregational brethren. The Bulgarians reside in towns and villages, from which they go out to cultivate the land. There are in the principality twelve large towns or cities, each containing from 4,000 to 30,000 inhabitants, the rest of the people living in villages of from 400 to 2,000 inhabitants each.

We, at present, really occupy only four points, though we have from time to time occupied several others, that, by a ruinous vacillation on our part, have for one reason and another been in succession abandoned; some of them re-opened only to be again forsaken. There are two or three places besides the four where colporteurs reside, but nothing has been done in them worthy of more than a mere mention.

The mission was opened in 1857, but has been several times interrupted, once by the withdrawal of all the foreign missionaries with a view of abandoning the field because of want of success, and once by a war that ravaged the country in 1876–7, preceded and followed by agitations that admitted of no successful mission work. Our missionaries have all the time faced an ignorant, intolerant, and persecuting priesthood. Some, or all, of these facts might be given as reasons for the failure of the mission to yield satisfactory fruits, were it not that we know the Gospel can win its way in spite of such hinderances. But they have doubtless retarded the work. I came to the conclusion, however, that our failure is chiefly to be ascribed to our own evil administration from the very beginning. In vindication of this judgment allow me to give you a statement of the present condition of the charges we now occupy.

1. RUSTCHUK.—This is a city finely situated on the Danube, and having a population of 24,000. It is about 100 miles from

Varna on the Black Sea, to which a railroad, now the usual route of travel for the Continent, runs from Constantinople. It is one of the most important places of the Principality, and we have occupied it, with the interruptions already referred to, from the year 1870. It reached at times quite a degree of prosperity, but the German Baptists came into the city and divided the congregation with us, and since this the work has been once suspended for a time. It was re-opened by Rev. E. F. Lounsbery, the present pastor, in 1880. His congregation at first averaged seven persons. It now averages twenty-five persons, aged from twelve to forty years, and there are five members of the Church and six probationers. The Sunday-school has an average attendance of sixteen. This has been accomplished in spite of three removals of place of worship since 1880. The room at present occupied, though as eligible as any of the three locations, is but twelve feet by fourteen feet in dimensions, concealed in a dwelling-house located on an obscure street. It is not too much to say that we have not deserved success in Rustchuk. We have had no right to expect it. Our men and money have, for these years, been wasted in pusillanimous efforts. I wonder that any have been found willing to identify themselves with a religious body which, by its vacillating course, and wretched appliances for work, gave notice to the few that hear of its missionaries that they would probably retire, at no distant day, from the field, and leave their adherents without any support in the midst of that contempt and persecution which all must meet who, in such a land, forsake the current faith for one that all the people have been taught to abhor.

2. TIRNOVA.—This city is located thirty-five miles south of Sistoff on the Danube, and has a population of 7,000. Work was opened by Dr. Long in 1859, and the congregation, till 1864, met in his own dwelling-house, there being an average of some twenty-five hearers. It was then intermitted till 1876. The war then occurring left nothing of our former work. Rev. A. R. Jones and Rev. J. I. Economoff were more recently sent to this place, and the Theological School was also taken there. Rev. S. Thomoff, who is reputed a preacher of great power, visited the place to aid in re-establishing the work. We have

no real estate here. Brother Jones holds the public services in his own house, and a small room is rented for the school, in which are from nine to twelve students. Services are also held in this school-room on Sundays, where Brother Economoff preaches. There are now nine members and probationers in Tirnova, and an average attendance of twenty-five at the public services, these mostly young. There is a Sunday-school here, with an average attendance now of nine, from which, however, all the children were lately driven by the priests. A work with such a history as this, and no more facilities even yet at the command of our brethren, has met with merited failure. No wonder that fanatical priests dare intrude upon a work so feebly supported and trample upon our rights, robbing us of the trifling results obtained. It was but natural that such efforts should be despised.

3. SISTOFF.—This place, the present capital of the Principality, was opened as a mission by Dr. Long in 1863. For a time there was a congregation of between thirty and forty. Before two years elapsed it was committed to the care of Gabriel Elief, our faithful native preacher, under whom the congregation increased till it was between sixty-five and seventy-five in number, as now stated, though we find Elief reporting then but a dozen. The place has been successively occupied by Brothers Lounsbery and Challis, the war in the meantime intervening, and the congregation being reduced to an average of twenty-five. The congregation has averaged of late about thirty-five, but the General Committee having made an appropriation for a building, it has been erected during the past year, and was opened a month before the annual meeting, which held its session in it. On the opening of the building the congregation at once sprang up to about seventy-five. The building is well located, on a lot about 100 feet square, and is of stone. It is 35×60 feet in dimensions. It contains nine rooms, which serve as parsonage, school-rooms, and church. The chapel is 30×35 feet. The dedication of the church and the session of the Conference have given an entirely new and advanced position to our mission here. The Theological School will be removed—perhaps has been ere this—to this place from Tirnova, whence Brothers Jones and Economoff

will also come with all their students, and Tirnova will be left for the present to the care of a native brother, with an occasional visit from the missionaries at Sistoff. This is a misfortune for Tirnova. May it be but for a brief time! Sistoff will, I trust, become the strong and vigorous center of the Bulgaria Mission. If so, at no distant date we should have at this point a churchly building beside the present edifice. Brothers Thomoff and Ladd, the missionaries, will continue in Sistoff, both able, and the first eloquent in his native tongue to a rare degree; Economoff, also a native, and greatly developed and improved since he left the United States, and Jones, full of ability and inspiration, will make a force worthy of our chief center. The villages all around, if God smile upon them, must feel their labors, and Sistoff alone, in a year or two, will have more members than the entire mission has ever had.

4. LOFTCHA.—This is a city of 7,000 inhabitants, lying south of Tirnova among the highlands of the Balkans. It will serve admirably as a sanitarium relief from the less salubrious regions of the Danube. The acting superintendent, Rev. D. C. Challis, has, since his return to Bulgaria, occupied this field. It was occupied in the very beginning of the mission really by Gabriel Elief. Here he endured much hardship, and at one time was arrested and sent under guard to Sistoff. Suffering interruptions, as in other stations, work was resumed after the war. There had been eight or ten converts, and these formed the nucleus of the resuscitated station. Here, in an early period, resided a family named Getchoff, one of whom is now the pastor of this charge. His father and mother, one of his brothers, and his wife, were killed by the Turks during the war. Brother Challis took up his residence here in 1879. The resident bishop is intense in his animosity to our work. No suitable place could be rented for the services. The average attendance has been 25, the members numbering eight, the probationers, two; the average attendance at Sunday-school is fifteen. A few weeks before the annual meeting our new building, erected from a late appropriation, was opened with hopeful indications. The city is located at a sharp turn of the river on which it is situated, and at the most projecting

point a high hill rises, which was bought for our mission. The city is built all around the hill, from river to river. Our building on the hill is a very prominent and beautiful object, and is similar to the one in Sistoff. But the people think it hard to climb the hill, and it may not prove a great success as a church location, though it will be pre-eminent in its advantages as a home and school, and indicates our permanency. It has inspired great confidence, and spite any disadvantages with which it may have to struggle, must lead to growth. A church building in the city will, however, doubtless be an early necessity if we prosper there. The truth is, in all Greek and Roman Catholic lands we fail of our highest power until we meet the thought of the people—that public worship must be in a church building. The girls' school of the mission is located here, the same which, by a mistaken policy, as I think, was began at Troian. At Loftcha the school may hope for a good career. Our property here cost but $3,500.

These four places really contain all we have in Bulgaria. Gabriel Elief is at Silvi; Brother Pilka Ivanoff, a local preacher, is at Orchania, and Brother Todor A. Nicoloff, at Plevna. Their work is largely that of colportage, but they have little congregations and Sunday-schools at these places. Nicoloff is paid by the American Bible Society, and reports a great and growing desire for books, and says he is getting a hearing now from the better classes wherever he preaches. At Orchania persecution has reigned. The missionary and his wife have been stoned, and the priests have driven off from us souls who would fain have remained. In these places we have no property, but are forming nuclei for future societies when buildings can be afforded them and a missionary sent to them.

But Shumla, once the head-quarters of the mission, a city of 20,000 inhabitants, and Varna, on the Black Sea, should both be re-occupied as soon as our means will admit of giving them buildings and men; and Widdin also, though we have as yet not entered it, for it is a great city, and the most sightly on the Danube, on the borders of Servia, and necessary to complete our occupancy of the land. This all would make a strong and encouraging mission, and we must work toward

this end, though it may take years to accomplish it. Native brethren, in the meantime, can be scattering seed broadcast and forming circuits till we can compass the whole land.

At the annual meeting the work was arranged with this in view. The forces were concentrated at three points: Sistoff, Loftcha, and Rustchuk. In the first two named we already have good buildings, and at Rustchuk we asked and obtained a grant for one the present year. Another man should at once re-enforce Brother Lounsbery at this point. Here we should pause till the question of success in the mission is tested on the new line. If we continue to fail, the real estate can be sold without much, if any, loss. The missionaries, than whom no field has a more trustworthy force, declare that, by the blessing of God, they will show us results in two or three years, and beg not to be disbanded now that most of them have just learned the language of the country, and are prepared for work, and deeply interested in it. It seemed to us that to abandon the mission just as it was equipped with this excellent force, and within a month of the opening of two fine buildings, and when indications never seen before of permanent prosperity were presenting themselves, would not only be very unjust to our recent re-enforcements of the mission, but would be a declaration of our own folly in the late expenditures for building, if not also an exhibition of another folly in not waiting a reasonable time to see what effects would follow from these erections. In these conclusions Dr. Long, so wise and true, concurred, and we joined together, with Bishop Foster, in a telegram to the General Committee to that effect.

Not the least hopeful indication was the attendance at Robert College of more than 100 Bulgarians, to say nothing of the evident turning of young men in the Principality toward us. Our Theological School is promising, and we can almost man our work from this period with native preachers of the first grade. I encouraged our brethren, where we had erected buildings, and had, therefore, apparent permanency, to resist aggressions upon their rights, and promised them, if necessary, to invoke the aid of our Government to protect them against priestly outrages. I am glad the General Committee heard our cry to

spare this work a little longer, till something worthy of ourselves shall be attempted. I am almost surprised at my own conclusions, but I trust their wisdom will be vindicated by the results of the future. I was able, as I hope, to make such suggestions to the Treasurer of the mission as will render it possible for us, hereafter, to use our own bills of exchange in Bulgaria, which we have not hitherto been able to do. We are rapidly reaching a point when, without exception, we can be our own bankers, thus avoiding much risk and some cost for banking services.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I learn that a political revolution has occurred in Bulgaria, and a ministry has succeeded to power under whose authority our schools have been closed and our mission work once more virtually suspended. Intense agitations exist, and our numerous friends protest against this violence. Indeed, such is the state of the public mind that the Russian power, which is the real iron-clad glove that has laid its grip upon Bulgaria, will be compelled to retire from its present position, or bloodshed will result. But it is a significant fact that the schools of the American Board at Samakoff, which have had buildings for a long time and secured thereby a residency, have not been disturbed. If we had built years ago, as we should have done, no one would have ventured to prohibit our occupancy of our own premises. The present crisis but confirms the views above presented.

The following financial statement for 1882 of the Theological School will be of interest. No account, of course, is made of the salaries of the missionaries who gave a portion of their time to the business of instruction.

Cost of food, soap, and starch	8,732.35	piasters.*
Cook's salary	1,000.00	"
To be divided among the students for board	9,732.35	"

8 students for 232 days	=	1,856	days.		
2 " "	186	"		372	"
2 " "	46	"		92	"
1 " "	50	"		50	"
Total number of days				2,370	

* A piaster is 3.4 cents. 40 paras to a piaster.

9,732.35÷2,370=4.10 piasters per day per student.
10,560.15÷2,370=4.45 piasters per day, including wood.

School's proportion of rent for house.....1,740.00 piasters.
Utensils, dishes, etc..... 547.10 "
Wood and kerosene..... 827.20 "
Books, dumb-bells, etc..... 423.16 "

Rent, utensils, wood, books, etc.....3,538.06 "

3.538.06÷2,370=1.49 piasters per day per student; 4.04 piasters per day for board.

Per day per student for every thing, 5.59 piasters.

231 days in the school year; 231×5.59=1291.29 piasters=$43 90=11.17 napoleons.

Cost per student for every thing, except tuition, for the whole year, 11.17 napoleons. Tuition fee, 2.50 napoleons.

Requisite to meet all expenses, 13.67 napoleons.

13.67 napoleons=13 napoleons, 13.40 paras=$52 69.

Cost of food, soap, starch, and cook's salary.....9,732.35 piasters.
Cost of rent, wood, utensils, books, etc.....3,538.06 "
Cost of iron bedsteads.....1,281.00 "
Cooking machine..... 105.00 "

Total expenditure for the school.....14,657.41 "

14,657.41 piasters=2,527 gold francs.

Expenditures..... ....2,527.00 gold francs.
Receipts.....1,103.50 "

Balance paid by mission.....1,423.50 "

1,423.50 gold francs×.193=$274 73.

Appropriated.....$500 00=2,590.60 gold francs.
Paid out..... 274 73=1,423.50 "

Below the appropriation, and saved to the mission..... ...$225 27=1,167.10 "

The report of my visitation to India, though India is the more important field, need not consume a corresponding measure of the attention of the Board. I reached Bombay on the evening of November 26, and found letters from every part of the empire, north and south, welcoming me, and inviting me to specified fields for specified purposes of various kinds. Those from North India begged me to proceed immediately to North India, that I might witness the closing of their schools and other institutions for the year, and also be

present at camp-meetings—called here *melas*—where I could see large numbers of native Christians ; and at District Conferences, where I could observe the large force of native preachers that are supplying the work and under mission pay, though not yet admitted to the honors and responsibilities of membership in the Annual Conference. As the invitation which led the Board to direct me to make my visit proceeded from the North India Conference, and as the Board was chiefly concerned in the work in the north, I decided that it was better to comply with their requests, though it involved a doubling upon my track in order to be at the sessions of the South India Conference and the Decennial Conference, both of which were to meet in Calcutta before the meeting of the North India Conference. I regard it as very happy that my visit occurred at a time which enabled me to attend that great Convocation of Missionaries of all denominations, throughout India, which assembles only once in ten years, to report and discuss the work of God throughout the Empire. In no other way could I, in so short a space of time, have been able to compare our methods and measure of success with those of others, or have heard questions of missionary policy so fully discussed. I was present at the entire sessions of this body, as well as at those of our two India Conferences, sharing as I thought best in their deliberations, and explaining our home wishes and processes. I was every-where received with open arms and with most unqualified expressions of the value to the churches and Conferences of India of the visit I was making, and of its happy effects upon the work.

You will not have time now to receive the " salaams " which, every-where in North India, were sent to the Board and to the Methodist congregations and Sunday-schools of the United States expressive of the gratitude of India Christians to you for having sent them the Gospel. Indeed, in some congregations, hundreds of Mohammedans and Hindus joined in these demonstrations, because, though still adhering to some extent to their old faiths and customs, they had been educated in our schools, and the grossness of their errors and superstitions had been corrected through our missionaries. Every-where I preached and lectured and platformed as often as I had

opportunity, and my wife accompanied the ladies of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in their visits to the zenanas and to other parts of our woman's work in India. I visited all the principal centers of our work in North India, except those among the mountains, and only regret that I could not have done this and also spent some time among the villages where our greatest successes have been achieved. This would have taken at least a month longer. I think, however, the mission was well satisfied with the completeness of the visitation ; and I could not feel at liberty to tarry longer than I did.

I also spent some time at Bombay, Calcutta, Allahabad, etc., in the South India Conference, and the people and pastors met me at the railroad and other stations at many points of my route, where I could not tarry, and conferred with me ; and in some of these places I caught glimpses of our churches and parsonages. At Calcutta I had full and free association with the pastors of South India for an entire week. Yet I must not conceal my regret that, because of my convictions of the needs of the office at home, I was not able to add at least a month more to the time given to South India.

I was careful to say, in open Conference at Calcutta as well as in private circles every-where, that I was not charged with any responsibilities to South India. I also affirmed and re-affirmed that the Board had no hostility to the work in South India, but quite the contrary. I also declared that, so far from desiring to make appropriations to South India, we very much desired that they might be able to do the work to which God was calling them without foreign financial aid, thus releasing us for work where this was absolutely impossible ; that, in fact, we desired not only South India, but North India and all other missions, as soon as possible, to become self-supporting ; that no action had ever been taken by the Board with respect to their work, except in a few cases according their request ; and even in these cases the final result was as they desired. Certainly nothing had ever been done by the Missionary Society that could in the least degree militate against their work. I sought to bear toward them the loving and interested attitude which I knew to be the one entertained by members

of the Board and by the pastors of churches every-where in the United States, and it seems to me that the effect was wholesome, and but few misunderstandings can remain.

After some of these talks there were those who declared that the single message just delivered to them would more than compensate the Church for my visit to India, for it was just what they needed. Each visit I have made to our missions has convinced me that when a Corresponding Secretary personally declares the policy, purpose, and practice of the Missionary Society, it is received with peculiar regard as authoritative.

My own interest in the South India work has been greatly increased by my visit. In a brief ten years noble churches and congregations have been established, and real estate of great value and beauty accumulated, amounting in the aggregate to $148,200, as valued in the Conference statistics. The almost sublime struggle of the Conference after a method by which the natives can be reached, depending on themselves alone for the support of their pastors, truly excited my admiration. I wish I could say I was equally hopeful of its success. It may, I fear, prove to be a struggle after the impossible. The principle on which they proceed will, however, be tested to its utmost, and fail only when failure is inevitable.

If our South India brethren have as yet scarcely entered this great field of native work, the recent origin of the mission, the many claims which have continually taxed all their energies and resources sufficiently explain it. I sought to assure myself that pastors and people, so busy as these must be for years to come, would be able to acquire the many languages spoken in their territory, so as to preach to the masses of natives. I sought also to discover what means of support among the natives generally might be developed by which men could go to them with the Gospel who had no expectation of help from stronger Churches abroad. I wish I could report to you that my faith has been established, or even strengthened, in the possibilities of success on this line.

I assured these brethren that if for any reason, real or imaginary, they should prefer to organize a missionary society of their own for the support of their native work, it would

meet with no disfavor from us ; but they object to this as being a surrender of their self-supporting principle, as it most certainly would be. Bishop Foster faithfully remonstrated against the neglect, in the meantime, of the millions of natives all around them. He was profoundly impressed that the Conference had no right to leave these millions without the Gospel, especially as experience thus far must have taught the Conference that on the present line they must continue to fail in this great duty. As the Conference has already covered about all the Eurasian and European field accessible to them, it was evident to me that their work, begun in such a spirit of earnest, holy evangelism, must degenerate into a mere holding of the points already occupied, if that greater work be not soon undertaken with vigor.

I have thus felt bound to report my bearing toward the South India brethren, which I do with the greater pleasure, as I feel confident I did not overstate your love for them, or desire for their success. This representation of your friendliness of spirit may possibly not have been, in some rare instance, welcome, as it deprives the disloyal of the possibility of hereafter declaiming, with any hope of a favorable hearing, against the missionary authorities of the Methodist Episcopal Church ; but I rejoice to believe that the churches and Conference are nearer to the great body of the Church in the United States than they ever have been. If in any way the immense native work can be prosecuted by the South India Conference, a great Methodism will at no distant day exist on those shores, of which the beginning made during the past decade will be the foundation. It is a noble beginning, for ministers and people have much of the spirit of the Master, and great zeal for his cause.

India, taken together, is a great field. I had long known that it contained about five times as many people as there are in the United States. I had also known its area to be about as great as all our own country east of the Mississippi, or about equal to all Europe—Russia excepted ; but I never realized its vastness of extent till I was compelled, in making this visitation, to take journeys quite equal to the longest the Secretaries ordinarily take at home. Moreover,

a little corner of this great empire is not the only place in it we have occupied, but our work is climbing the Him'alayas, while it almost touches Cape Cormorin, and spreads from Bombay to Calcutta. We have, in fact, compassed the entire land.

Perhaps it will be as difficult for you, as it was for me, to appreciate the stupendous nature of the undertaking we have on hand here, for it really is well-nigh like an attempt to add to our work a heathen land equal in its demands to the whole United States. Here we began but twenty-five years ago in the North-western Provinces, entirely among heathen, and where, with a feeble exception or two, there was nothing of Christianity, and, in the brief time that has followed, we have accumulated all that now exists there of Methodism.

The territory occupied by the North India Conference is densely populated, having, in most of it, about 397 inhabitants to the square mile, some twenty millions in all, within a territory some 400 miles long by 80 miles broad, or not far from the area of the State of New York. We still are very largely the only missionaries in this field.

1. The first great impression made upon my mind, as I viewed the field, was this one I am now seeking to give you, of its immensity, and the very much there is yet to be done before our duty to it shall be fully discharged. There are some provinces within the bounds of the North India Conference, containing a million of souls, where even yet no Christian teacher resides. Notwithstanding our mission is extending itself as rapidly as possible, for many years to come there will be wide openings within these unoccupied areas without reaching at all beyond them.

2. I was also impressed, beyond all my expectation, with the real estate of which we have become possessed. True, it is put down in our tables as valued, for the entire mission, embracing real estate of Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, at $342,552, but much of it was bought at a surprisingly low rate, and I have not seen a piece of it that is not most eligibly situated. In many cases no better situation could even now be selected if we had the most unrestrained choice. Our residences, churches, school-houses, and academies, though

sometimes built entirely of dried clay, and never of costly material, are, very generally, beautiful in style, and usually kept freshly whitened. For the most part the buildings are spacious, with very high ceilings and very capacious rooms, that the warm weather of most of the year may be more tolerable to our brethren and sisters who occupy them. Many of the compounds or lots in which the buildings stand are an acre or two acres in extent, even in cities of considerable size. I have often admired the wisdom on this line of the Roman Catholics of the United States, and our brethren in India seem to have shown a like sagacity.

I turned my attention at once to the question of titles to this property, so often a matter of anxiety to the Board, and which they have found it difficult to understand ; and I am happy to be able to present to the Board a copy of the title-deed for each of our numerous pieces of property, and a copy of the new law enacted in India for holding real estate. I doubt not that, with these aids, we shall now be able to arrive at satisfactory conclusions on this important subject. I would respectfully submit whether it would not be wise to refer all these documents to a Committee for their careful consideration. These properties consist of a Book Room at Lucknow ; a Theological Seminary at Bareilly, with an endowment, most of it invested in several valuable buildings ; of an Orphanage at Shahjehanpore ; of an extensive and beautiful school property of the Memorial School at Cawnpore ; of a Hospital at Pithorogarh ; of various homes, numerous church buildings, such as I have already described, native chapels, school-houses, and compounds.

3. The native employes of the Missionary Society were objects of peculiar interest to me. They are, including the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, 352 in number, of whom 104 are preachers, 21 of them being members of the Annual Conference. The residue are teachers, local preachers, exhorters, colporteurs and Bible readers, etc., etc. The mission has not as yet acquired such strength as to furnish in every case Christian teachers for its schools. The number of such is now but 49.

The preachers are a body of men of considerable education

and ability, some of them understanding and even speaking English quite well. They are evidently truly consecrated to God, and of great independence of thought and action. A large majority of the Annual Conference will soon be natives, a fact perpetually to be borne in mind in the future administration of this Board. The existence of a Finance Committee in the mission, to whom all the financial business is referred, is, in view of this fact, evidently a very wise provision.

I visited numerous congregations of natives, and frequently addressed them—through interpreters. In one instance I was at a *mela* where the congregation numbered, on several occasions, not less than 2,000, all natives, except, perhaps, twoscore persons. One half of them were Mohammedans or Hindus. Our Christians were neatly dressed and fine looking, and their testimonies, as given in meetings which I attended, were quite rich and interesting. My general conclusion was that our Church in North India is growing up with a thorough and intelligent religious life, and its ministers are penetrated with a just sense of their great work.

There are now 15,397 scholars in 344 Sunday-schools, and 10,715 scholars in 330 day-schools. This alone gives great hope for the growth and stability of the Church. But the work also progresses among adults, and even among Mohammedans. I baptized numerous infants in India and only two adults, but both these were Mohammedan young men of very fine appearance. Our statistics in North India at present show 3,561 members and probationers of the Church.

Our missionaries are truly consecrated to God and their work. They have not fallen into ruts, nor are they doing merely their routine of duties. They are continually pressing on to new and holy enterprises. My soul was strengthened as I held communion with them; and for a long time I have not had richer baptisms of the Spirit than I received at the nightly meetings held during Conference in Lal Bagh, the home of the Misses Thoburn and Nickerson.

For some years I had entertained the idea that we could reduce the number of our foreign missionaries in India without harm to the work. I am now satisfied that this was an error. The force need not be enlarged, but the ever-expanding

work will require American leadership every-where for many years to come. We need twenty effective men in this field. They should be leaders—men of ability, of organizing power, men full of holy enterprise. For ordinary preaching and missionary work natives can henceforth be found. The future will also develop native leadership ; but, for the present, let the work be firmly held as it is, as far as the number of missionaries is concerned.

4. The question of self-support received all the attention I could possibly bestow upon it. I found every part of the Church trained in the line of giving, but I also found that, while great efforts were made to make the missionary collection as large as possible, and to induce the members to contribute liberally to the general objects of the mission, and even to give for the support of pastors, that the native preachers were laboring under an excessive modesty in respect to soliciting for their own support. This modesty was partly created by the common extortions of Mohammedan and Hindu priests, with which they were afraid any effort of theirs to obtain personal support might be confounded. The longest and most earnest debate of the North India Conference session was on this subject. I protested that the people must be made to practically understand this matter, and, above all, that the preachers must learn to lay aside all improper delicacy on this subject, for only by their vigorous help could the Church learn the duty and privilege of sustaining its pastors. The result of this important discussion was, that the Conference heartily resolved to adopt my suggestions. Bishop Foster gave his powerful influence to secure this decision. The collection for missions may, in consequence, be somewhat lessened for the coming year, but I have no doubt of the wisdom of the change. Even as it has been, a large sum is annually contributed in India for the support of the mission, varying from $15,000 to $30,000 annually. Money was raised in every circuit for the support of the preachers. All preachers to English-speaking people were, last year, self-supporting, and also some pastors of native congregations. Teachers were largely paid from the school fund raised in India. The large gifts of noble civilians and military officers,

not of our Church, to our mission work is the highest possible compliment, being the practical testimony of disinterested eye-witnesses, to its worth.

I had the great privilege, both in public and private, of explaining to our native brethren the reasons of much of our policy, and especially the reasons for the inequality between the salary of the foreign missionary and the native preacher, and to insist that the native preachers shall not expect that their salaries will ever be greater than the native Church, well instructed and organized, will be able to pay. I assured them that they could not expect perpetual aid from abroad, and that no Church was worth the cost of founding that could not eventually sustain itself, and also take its part in sending the Gospel to others in "regions beyond." The whole subject of self reliance had a thorough ventilation, and the outcome was very satisfactory to all parties.

5. The financial methods of the missions and their accounts received such attention as I deemed necessary. They are in some respects peculiar. There exists, by authority of the Board, a finance committee, with designated powers. Of this committee the presiding elders are all *ex officio* members, and there are also other members, some of them natives. This body sends forth the estimates, and when the appropriations of the General Committee are made they designate what proportion thereof legitimately belongs to each district. For this amount the President of the Annual Conference issues his quarterly drafts to the order of the Presiding Elder, who distributes to each missionary in charge, giving him a memorandum of the items for which the appropriations were made. The Presiding Elder audits the accounts of the missionary quarterly, and the Finance Committee, at the Annual Conference, audits the accounts of the Presiding Elders, examining their memoranda to see if they accord with the appropriations of the General Committee, and also audits the accounts of the Treasurer of the mission.

This seemed to me a very excellent system, though it does not enable the Treasurer of the mission to render us his accounts in detail as we desire to have them. I interposed, therefore, no objection to the existing method, but explained

the disabilities under which it places us, and I emphasized the fact that the Board must regard the Treasurer as their own officer, and not that of the Conference, although the Conference usually elect him, which is, in fact, a mere nomination to the Board. I re-affirmed that we must continue to hold him responsible for every expenditure, that it shall be made in strict accordance with the appropriations. I was greatly gratified with the carefulness and thoroughness with which the financial interests of the mission were attended to, and I did not feel at liberty to direct any changes in methods that had formulated themselves gradually with the growth of the mission, and to which all persons in the mission had become well accustomed. Should the Board deem it important to direct modifications to be made, I doubt not they will meet with a cheerful compliance.

6. The industrial interests of this mission are peculiar to it, arising out of the system of caste, which excludes any one becoming a Christian from all his former friends and employments. Once this exclusion was complete and merciless, even to the separation of husband and wife, parents and children, flight from the neighborhood being essential to safety. Christians are now becoming so numerous, and Christianity so recognized, that, to some extent, this evil is abated, and Christians generally now remain in the neighborhood of their former friends, and bear such burdens, persecutions, and losses as come to them in consequence of their new faith.

But even yet, the problem of support, especially with the increased necessities that Christian habits and tastes naturally and graciously bring to the India converts, is a problem of the greatest difficulty, which the missionaries are nobly struggling to solve. Various handicrafts are taught in our orphanages. At Cawnpore the late experiment of employing the older boys of our orphanage, and other Christians, in the cotton mills seems to have met with reasonable success. Not far from 150 Christians are now thus employed. The Christian villages, founded in the early period of the mission, will not be multiplied, and have already ceased to be used for segregating our converts from the rest of the people, being rather places of refuge for those who, not having energy or

tact to secure a living, were passing from station to station in a harmful and, to the missionaries, burdensome mendicancy. In my house is now a neat lady's writing-desk, made by the boys of our orphanage at Shahjehanpore, and presented with a graceful note to Mrs. Reid. It will indicate to those who may examine it what may be accomplished by our youth in this line. I presented to our brethren most urgently the importance of training our better minds also for the professions. Both medicine and law seemed to me to be opening to India Christians. But no proposition that I could make seemed at all feasible to our brethren. I cannot, however, abandon this thought, and hope to be able to invest a little of my personal means in some experiments in this direction.

7. Our schools are a most important part of our work. I was present at a part of the examination of our Theological School, and had the honor of presiding at its anniversary exercises and giving diplomas to six young men, who seemed to me of great promise. The whole number of students is twenty-six. The school is worthy of all praise. I was also present at the closing exercises of Cawnpore Memorial School. It is a seminary of somewhat high grade, where instruction is imparted in English. The exercises I witnessed were in English, and would have been creditable to a high school in our own land. I also visited the Centennial School, a school of like kind for natives, where instruction is in both English and Hindustanee. They have just commenced their new building, for not until now has a suitable location been obtained. But the school appeared to be under good management, and is very important. I also saw our schools at Nynee Tal, Lucknow, and Moradabad, the last of which, under Mr. Goucher's grant, is to be a high school, accessible to worthy scholars of the Chumar schools, and a generous lady in India has made a donation to provide the necessary enlargement of the school building. I presided at the closing exercises of Miss Thoburn's school, and saw something of the girls' schools at Cawnpore and Moradabad, and other places. These higher schools of ours are all potent agencies of our work. Not less so are our orphanages, which I also saw; and both male and female orphanages are institutions of great

usefulness. I was particularly impressed with the importance of our smaller vernacular schools, such as those for which Mr. Goucher has provided. These are very numerous, and potent for good. Nearly 10,000 pupils are thus under daily instruction, with which religion and religious influence are commingled, and are growing up to be felt as a power throughout the North-west Provinces.

The system of education for India allows high schools to present male students for entrance examination into the national universities, and also for more advanced examinations, and to have other privileges. We have four such high schools for Europeans and Eurasians, and three for natives, which are Anglo-vernacular in their instruction. The first are as follows: The Memorial School and the Girls' School at Cawnpore, and the Boys' School and the Girls' School at Nynee Tal. In these there are about 180 pupils. Those for natives are the Centennial School and Girls' School at Lucknow, and the Normal School connected with our Theological Seminary at Bareilly. About 250 attend these schools. Next to these high schools are more than a dozen Anglo-vernacular middle schools for natives, viz.: Two or more at Lucknow and at Cawnpore, and one at each of the following places, viz.: Seetapur, Shahjehanpore, Bareilly, Moradabad, Budaon, Bijnour, and Chandausi. In these schools there are reported 1,571 pupils. There are several other institutions that should rank as middle schools, though, with the exception of the first-named, they have not yet reached the higher classes, viz.: The Girls' Orphanage at Bareilly, and the Girls' Boarding Schools at Moradabad, Budaon, and Bijnour. Below these we have, as above noted, primary schools so numerous that I cannot even say how many they are. A number exist in every circuit and charge. They are all vernacular schools, though in a very few of them primary English is taught. All castes and classes of Mohammedans and Hindus attend, and we are allowed to teach them freely the faith of Jesus Christ and the doctrines of our Church. Many Hindus and Mohammedans are among the number, not only in day-schools, but in Sunday-schools, and learn our Berean Lessons and Catechism, and repeat our Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments with as much earnestness as others.

The Government of India lends its aid in this great educational work. Sometimes its grants-in-aid for the support of our schools have equaled annually our own expenditures. Some fine buildings for school purposes we also owe almost entirely to like grants, with supplemental benefactions from friends in India. I could wish that some one with large wealth would at once complete our educational system by founding a Methodist university for all India. But this ought to be done only when it can be fully endowed. If a Christian education is not supplied, we shall destroy the existing false religions of the people, and infidelity will reign among these millions. We must not only take away their errors, but we must give them Christ, or our work is ruinous.

8. Our publishing interests are an important part of the evangelizing apparatus in India. I visited our Book Concern in Lucknow, and I witnessed the every-where present influence of the press in India, but I could not give this department that detailed attention it deserved. We have a Church paper for the natives in Roman Urdu, called *Kankab-i-Hind*, i. e., "Star of India," which is taken by nearly all our native members who can read. And we have a child's paper printed in two editions, one Hindi and the other Urdu. It is given to all the Hindi and Mohammedan boys who attend our Sunday-school, and thus the bread of life is carried all over the land, even where our missionaries find no access.

The English Church paper of the mission is now published at Calcutta, and edited by Dr. Thoburn. It is a first-class weekly, and published without cost to the Missionary Society, but the North India Conference shares with the South India the responsibility and conduct of the paper. Sunday-school books and apparatus, tracts and volumes, etc., etc., are published at our Book Concern. The magnitude of the work will appear from the fact that last year 415,000 volumes were printed, or 4,500,000 pages. The publishing house has a good property in Lucknow, and it was cheering and curious to see native compositors and pressmen at work in their peculiar way, compositors sitting on the ground with the cases lying around them. A proposition is now made to endow this Concern and locate it at Allahabad, so as to answer for all India.

The Concern received last year from the Missionary Treasury, $560; from the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, $1,000; and $500 from the Religious Tract Society of London, England, for tract work, and $500 from the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church for Sunday-school work. These grants, with the proceeds from its endowment fund, and from sales and job-work, have sufficed to enable it to accomplish its great work and leave a small balance of profit.

Finally. I dwelt with much anxiety and prayerfulness upon the internal spirit of our mission, and our prospects of continued and complete success. It was a real satisfaction to me to be a witness of the respect paid to our work at the great Decennial Conference. It was evidently conceded to be in the first rank of missions in India, and, I would add, in the world. I was delighted with the living experiences that I so often heard from native lips, while a flush of triumph and joy gave a heavenly beauty to their faces darkened by a tropical sun. But I endeavored to look deeper than that which affected my heart, and inquire for the elements where might, by any possibility, lurk our danger or our power. On many of these I might remark, if your patience would allow; but let one suffice, upon which my own mind has often had serious questionings. It has all along been known that our first successes were chiefly among the Sikhs, a low caste people, though some of all grades have been received, and that our latest and brightest prospects are among the Chumars, another low caste people. The effect of this is worthy of consideration. Will this gathering of low-caste people in the land prevent our ever receiving the higher castes? Will it leave us with an inferior membership, and without influence or position in that great empire? If it were our providential calling to be angels of mercy and salvation to the poorest and weakest, we should cheerfully accept it. But history seems to show that they who lift the foundations of society lift the whole of it. It is worth while to note the errors on this point that we are likely to fall into by reasoning from our American experience to results in India. Caste is an arbitrary distinction, not founded on personal ability or merit, but is an inheritance of the son from the father. If the latter

was of the Mehter, or sweeper class, the former must be. If the latter were a Chumar, a leather-worker, the former must be. My observation satisfied me that the lower castes were not naturally inferior to the high castes, and in some cases I could not see that their acquirements were less. I have seen low caste students side by side with high caste, and the former leading. They are not inferior in personal appearance or manners. The lower castes, the moment they are disenthralled by conversion from the incubus of their caste, are likely to feel and assert their manhood, and actually do it. When challenged as a Mehter or Chumar, they respond that they are Christians, thus repudiating caste altogether. It will be apparent, then, that if the large body of our people be of the lower castes, they are not therefore inferior, and with the better education of our schools may even excel in personal qualities the higher castes. Their discipline in the lowlier rank will in some respects the better fit them for usefulness as Methodists. Naturally they are more ready for a change than the higher castes. They are by far the most numerous of the castes, and if they shall come almost as a body some of these days unto the Lord, as they give some indications of doing, the harvest to be garnered must be most abundant, and not less influential. Those missions that have striven to be select in their membership, with the idea that this alone could give them the power and influence needful for ultimate success, are to-day insignificant, though much longer in the field, while we are strong and growing daily. Our missionaries evidently were moved by Christly thoughts and feelings in opening their arms and welcoming all sin-sick souls that came to them to be directed to the great Physician and the healing balm; and I feel confident that the end will vindicate their course as not only right, but wise as a matter of policy. The most glorious successes, I hope and believe, are just awaiting us.

The entire harmony of the mission was a joy and encouragement to me; especially when I found that there were some other missions that had been much longer in this field than ourselves but had frittered away their time and strength in debates about policies and measures, while the workers in them in consequence have become alienated from each other,

and often from the home Board, and almost without fruit. With scarcely an exception our missionaries have chosen to work as well as they could whatever policy the majority of them, or the Board at home, deemed wisest and best, until they could superinduce a change. Any policy well worked is doubtless better than a want of union. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in this field is no exception to this. The wise and godly women that have been sent to India regard themselves as a part of the mission, and not as another mission. Thus they both receive and confer most important and lasting benefits. I have not made special reference to their great and noble work, only because I supposed it did not come within my province as deputed to examine the work under charge of the Board.

And now let me conclude by sincerely thanking the Board for giving me the great privilege of this visit. It came at a moment somewhat inopportune to me personally, and was wholly unexpected. But after having delayed to the latest moment for any reconsideration of the order that might be desired, I proceeded to fulfill my duty. I shall be all the better qualified for the difficult and delicate questions so often to be decided by us; and, indeed, I have become convinced that some measure of personal inspection of the missions is absolutely necessary to the highest efficiency of a Secretary. It certainly is no small advantage to him who is so influential as a Secretary in the administration of affairs that involve hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and the interest of many thousands of our members, to have seen the work concerned. Nothing can compensate for a personal beholding. The frequent visits of our honored Bishops are a guarantee for the character of our mission work, and answer all purposes in making the appropriations, etc.; but for the daily duties of the administration a personal knowledge on the part of a Secretary is of the very highest value.

J. M. Reid.

KEY TO FRONTISPIECE.

THE frontispiece representing the North India Conference of 1883, at which Dr. and Mrs. Reid were present with Bishop Foster, made from an excellent photograph taken at Lucknow, is not so satisfactory in some of the likenesses as we could wish. Mr. Parker furnishes, in the next article, some account of the group, and we here give the names corresponding to the numbers found below the picture. The numbers stand nearly in the relative position of the faces which they represent, and which can be readily found by passing a perpendicular line over the picture:

1. Rev. Ibrahim Solomon.
2. " William Peters.
3. " Joel T. Janvier.
4. " Frederick W. Greenwald.
5. " Peter Gray.
6. " Ambica Charn Paul.
7. " George H. M'Grew.
8. " Antone Datt.
9. " W. R. Bowen.
10. Mrs. E. W. Parker.
11. Miss Louise Blackmar.
12. Rev. Thomas Gowan.
13. " Zahur-ul-Huqq.
14. " James Mudge.
15. Mrs. J. Mudge.
16. Rev. Hiram A. Cutting.
17. " Edwin W. Parker.
18. " John T. M'Mahon.
19. " Franklin G. Davis.
20. " Bishop Randolph S. Foster.
21. Mrs. J. T. M'Mahon.
22. " C. Grant.
23. Miss Harriet Kerr.
24. Rev. Robert Hoskins.
25. " Jefferson E. Scott.
26. " John M. Reid, D.D.
27. Mrs. Dr. J. M. Reid.
28. Rev. Joseph H. Gill.
29. Miss Florence M. Nickerson.
30. Mrs. J. H. Gill.
31. Rev. Seneca Falls.
32. Rev. Thomas S. Johnson, M.D.
33. Mrs. T. S. Johnson.
34. " J. E. Scott.
35. Rev. Philo M. Buck.
36. Rev. David W. Thomas.
37. Miss Clara A. Swain, M.D.
38. " Luella Kelly.
39. Rev. Charles L. Bare.
40. " Daniel O. Fox.
41. Miss Isabella Thoburn.
42. Mrs. B. H. Badley.
43. Miss De Vine.
44. Rev. Brenton H. Badley.
45. " Stephen Paul.
46. " Thomas J. Scott, D.D.
47. Miss Phœbe Rowe.
48. Rev. Mahbub Khan.
49. " James W. Waugh, D.D.
50. " Enoch Joel.
51. " Yaqub Shah.
52. " Isaac Fieldbrave.
53. " Horace J. Adams.

THE INDIA CONFERENCE GROUP.

BY REV. E. W. PARKER.

The most prominent places in the group are given to Bishop Foster and Dr. Reid, Corresponding Secretary, who were in India during last cold season seeing and supervising the work. All should read Bishop Foster's letters, now being printed in "Zion's Herald," and no one should fail to study carefully Dr. Reid's report of his entire trip. Visits of our Secretaries to the missions should, we think, be more frequent. At the very

least, one of them should visit each field once, and become personally acquainted with all the peculiarities of the work. Mrs. Dr. Reid, here represented unfortunately by a very imperfect likeness, stands behind the Secretary.

Fourteen of the group, (7, 14, 17, 18, 24, 25, 28, 32, 35, 36, 39, 44, 46, 49,) are missionaries, and seven, (10, 15, 21, 30, 33, 34, 42,) are wives of missionaries. Nine, (11, 22, 23, 29, 37, 38, 41, 43, 47,) are ladies of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Unfortunately a number of the missionaries, male and female, (fourteen in all,) were not present, and the group is thus far incomplete. All that need be here said of the missionary band is that they all have a ready, practical use of the Hindustanee language, and are effective workers among the natives.

Two persons in the company, the Revs. F. G. Davis and D. O. Fox, are visiting members of the South India Conference, between which and the North India Conference there is the most perfect harmony.

Eighteen of the group, indicated by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 31, 45, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, with names given in the *Key*, are native ministers. The full number of such *in the Conference* is twenty-three. These native members are all tried and trained men. Besides their school and theological training, they all labored at least four years in the regular itinerant work, and passed a four-years' course of study before they were received into Conference. Hence, they are men firmly grounded in Methodist experience, polity, and doctrine. A brief account of a few of them may be more instructive than general remarks concerning all.

Joel T. Janvier (3) is the "Joel" known so widely throughout the Methodist Church on account of his connection with Dr. Butler at the very commencement of our work in India. He was with Dr. Butler when the Mutiny broke out, and he was on hand to aid in opening the work again as soon as the smoke of those terrible days cleared away, and he has been a faithful worker ever since. He is a man of remarkably clear, deep, and all-pervading spiritual life, and he is a powerful preacher. He has excellent ability for camp-meeting and revival work, being an adept in bringing sinners to Christ. He now needs and will receive the sympathy of the Church, for he has lately quite lost the use of his eyes, and has to be led to his work. He has still an important charge.

The next to be noticed is Zahur-ul-Huqq, the native Presiding Elder, (13.) He was converted from Mohammedanism about twenty-five years ago, and literally gave up all for Christ. He was an educated man, having acquired both the Persian and Arabic languages, besides the Hindustani, and he had good prospects before him in his own religion, being of the highest class among his people, and about to be ordained as *maulvie*, (religious teacher.) From the beginning he developed great practical ability in planning and carrying forward work; and thus he has always been a leader among the native Christians. The district over which he is now Presiding Elder is a field that has been very largely broken up and cultivated by himself through years of faithful work. He is now

working his district very successfully, showing good administrative ability in managing men, as well as in opening new work and pushing forward the old.

Mahbub Khan (48) is another educated man who was converted from Mohammedanism, and he is still known among the people as *maulvie*. He combines excellent practical common sense, and a quiet, firm, yet gentle spirit with his culture, so that while he is an efficient leader he is beloved by all among whom he moves and labors.

Isaac Fieldbrave (52) is the son of "Joseph," who also worked with Dr. Butler. Isaac has received a good English and vernacular education in our schools, and is one of our best preachers and a good writer and translator. He is the author of several books and of many of our best hymns. He has a very large body and a great loving heart.

Hiram A. Cutting (16) and Thomas Gowan (12) are men who have been found efficient as preachers in charge of large circuits which combine a number of out-stations, schools, etc., in one charge. They were educated in our schools, but, like too many young men of other lands, were inclined to be skeptical concerning a new spiritual life, until God's Spirit mightily convicted and powerfully converted them. About twenty years from the time they entered school as boys they were appointed in charge of the fields from which they went out.

Ibrahim Solomon (1) is a Hindustani Jew, who is a very energetic, successful worker. He entered a field where there were no Christians in some twenty-five villages, with a number of schools and Sunday-schools among all classes of people. His Quarterly Conference is composed of converts from all castes. The high-caste Brahmin and the lowest outcast are very prominently brought together in the office-bearers of his Church.

Horace Adams, (53,) a graduate of an orphanage, has for several years had charge of the Christian colony, Panahpore. He is one of the steady, plodding kind that move slowly yet always surely, and never bring disgrace upon the cause they serve. His pastoral work among the uncongenial elements brought together in this village has been very successful.

The younger men are also worthy of note, but space will not permit an account of each. They are all graduates of our Theological Seminary, and are men of intelligent Christian experience, with a correct view of God's great plan of salvation in Jesus Christ, and of the principles which constrain and govern us in our work of saving men. Although this Conference has already a majority of native members, and will very soon have a large native majority, still it can be fully trusted, for the men are educated, intelligent, truly converted men. Moreover, there is great variety of talent and experience among the native preachers, so that there are men fitted for every phase of the work, and for every phase of the controversy that may arise among the numerous schemes of religion and philosophy in India.

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HIGH-GRADE MISSION SCHOOLS.

Notices of such schools in our China Missions, at Foochow, Kiukiang, and Peking, will be found, in connection with the school notices already published in the MANUAL, in a pamphlet shortly to be issued, which will be devoted to the educational work in our Missions. For account of the Bareilly Theological Seminary, see MANUAL, July, 1881; for that of the Anglo-Chinese College, Foochow, see MANUAL, April, 1882.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

THE CHURCH LYCEUM.

J. H. VINCENT, *Superintendent of Instruction.*
JESSE BOWMAN YOUNG, A.M., *Secretary.*
D. H. MULLER, D.D., T. B. NEELY, A.M. } *Counselors.*

The course of study to be prosecuted by the Church Lyceum has been revised, and, as now presented, will receive, we doubt not, a hearty welcome.

Will pastors examine it carefully? We republish the introductory suggestions which appeared in the April MANUAL.

I. *The Lyceum is authorized by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

The Discipline provides for the organization of local Lyceums in our churches for the benefit, especially, of the young people. In § 6, ¶ 254, the following direction is given: "It shall be the duty of each Presiding Elder to bring the subject of education in individual churches before the Fourth Quarterly Conference of each year, and said Quarterly Conference shall appoint a committee, of which the preacher in charge shall be *ex officio* chairman, to organize, wherever practicable, a Church Lyceum, under the supervision of the Quarterly Conference, for mental improvement, and to develop facilities for social intercourse; to organize free evening schools; to provide a library, text-books, and books of reference; to popularize religious literature, by reading-rooms or otherwise; to seek out suitable persons, and, if necessary, assist them to obtain an education, with a view to the ministry; and to do whatever shall seem best fitted to supply any deficiency in that which the Church ought to offer to the varied nature of man."

II. *An inviting field of labor is opened up in this institution.*

How to interest and attract the young folks of the Church, and hold them to the work which they ought to do, is an urgent question which forces itself on every pastor and official

body in our denomination. These young people need wholesome recreation; counsel and oversight as to the books and periodicals which they should read; the stimulus of contact with educated minds; and all manner of sympathetic and wise assistance in entering upon the vocations which they may select. These objects, in part, are accomplished for a few, comparatively, here and there, in the Church, by the training of the C. L. S. C., and by other educational agencies, and an attempt is in operation to enlist the children in a somewhat similar movement on a much smaller scale by means of the "Lyceum Reading Union." There are multitudes of young people, however—and doubtless many older ones, too—who are not ready to enter upon such a course of readings as the Chautauqua plans involve, but who are ripe for a simple scheme of study that will require less time, and yet, in its way, prove a most valuable and helpful feature of one's daily life. It is to meet this need that the Lyceum movement has been reorganized. The aim which it contemplates should command the sympathy and co-operation of preachers and people throughout the whole Church. To organize and train our young people, cultivating their literary tastes, inspiring them with love for the best books, and admiration for the best authors, supplanting their devotion to frivolous and dissipating amusements by revealing the secret of higher and nobler pleasures and more satisfying recreations; to develop their elocutionary and oratorical gifts; to ennoble their social intercourse; and, along with all this, to drill them as Christian workers, and cause the power of religion and the influences of grace to blend and melt into their social and intellectual life; surely this is an aim worth striving for, an object sufficient to arouse and fill with enthusiasm both the pastors and the laity of the Church. The educational and religious power of this institution, where rightly organized and conducted, cannot easily be overestimated. We urge that a fair trial of the Lyceum system be given by our churches; and we invite pastors and others who may have experience in connection with this or similar organizations to report the result of their labors to the office in New York.

III. Several courses of reading are here presented, all forming one scheme of study, to be taken up and prosecuted in any order that the individual reader or local Lyceum committee may prefer. Here we have a course, "The Biblical and Normal," for Sunday-school teachers, for those who expect to become teachers, and, indeed, for all Christians, old and young, who desire to increase their knowledge of God's word and their ability to present the truths of that word to others. Here we also have a course of "Religious Literature for Young Christians," intended to build them up in the religious life, and to make them more efficient workers for Christ. Then, again, we have a course, "Biographical and Historical," covering a wide range, giving merely a glimpse at some of the great men of the age and some of the great movements in history. Here, too, is presented a course in "General Literature," with an account of a few of the great writers, and short specimens of their work. The course in "Science," simple and superficial though it may be, introduces us to a broad field for future observation and research. The course in "Art" gives us a few suggestions concerning the schools of art through the centuries, and the greatest works of the greatest architects, sculptors, and painters of all times.

The "Methodist Episcopal" course is peculiarly rich and attractive, and will increase the catholicity, intelligence, and Church loyalty of our people, young and old, who pursue it.

The "Miscellaneous" course gathers up the fragments, that nothing be lost. It is a home and health course, with hints on housekeeping, temperance, and exercise. It takes us "abroad," as well, in its stories of travel on sea and land.

Beyond all these are higher and more thorough courses where one may find all his earlier work recognized, and where he may, by a little effort, receive the honors and enjoy the delightful fellowship of that great people's university—the C. L. S. C.—the "Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle."

The way is indeed long through all these courses, but you need not go through them all. Read one course, or one book, or one tract. You have then done that much, at least. Later on you may do more; and thus, slowly but certainly, you

will pass gate-way after gate-way, until you reach the goal. And then you will be glad that you began, not merely because of what you shall then have accomplished, but because of the glorious possibilities that stretch out before you, and because of the renewed strength and zeal with which you will resolve to go still further on.

These courses may be prosecuted by any diligent and determined person at his home; but it is extremely desirable that classes for co-operative study be organized: normal classes, classes of young Christians, probationers' classes, circles, literary and scientific, art classes, etc., etc. If the pastor fails, for any reason, to carry out this scheme, the superintendent may do it, or some zealous or competent teacher or other person who believes in controlling the time and talents and treasures God puts within our reach in the interest of Christ and his Church.

I. The Biblical and Normal.

[Those books marked with a * should not only be read, but carefully studied.]

Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 19. "The Book of Books," 10 cents; No. 18. "Christian Evidences," 10 cents; No. 1. "Biblical Exploration," 10 cents; No. 41. "The Teacher before his Class," 10 cents; *No. 36. "Assembly Bible Outlines," 10 cents; No. 28. "Manners and Customs of Bible Times," 10 cents; No. 38. "The Life of Christ," 10 cents; No. 8. "What Noted Men Think of the Bible," 10 cents; No. 10. "What is Education?" 10 cents; *No. 37. "Assembly Normal Outlines," 10 cents; No. 39. "The Sunday-School Normal Class," 10 cents; No. 40. "Normal Outlines for Primary Teachers," 10 cents. "Readings for Sunday-School Workers," (from Magazine Series,) 35 cents. Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 44. "Jerusalem the Holy City," by Dr. Eaton, 10 cents.

Persons passing through this Biblical and Normal course, and answering satisfactorily the questions, (forwarded on application to **Rev. J. L. Hurlbut, D.D., Plainfield, N. J.,**) *will be entitled to a diploma of the* Chautauqua Teachers' Union.

II. Religious Literature for Young Christians.

"Who is Jesus?" (New Series, No. 13,) 2 cents. "A Plea for the Sabbath," (New Series, No. 15,) 3 cents. "At the Threshold," Paper, 50 cents; Cloth, 60 cents. "Pilgrim's Progress," 75 cents. "Daniel Quorm,"

Paper, 25 cents; Cloth, 80 cents. "The Path of Life," 85 cents. "The Money Mania," 10 cents. "Proportionate Giving," 20 cents. Lyceum Library.—No. 10. "Getting Along," 10 cents; No. 28. "Short Stories," 10 cents; No. 29. "Getting the Better of It," 10 cents. "The Young Disciple at the Lord's Table," 3 cents. "Loving Counsels to a Methodist Youth," 3 cents. "Short Prayers from the Word of God," 2 cents. Home College Series.—No. 49. "Keep Good Company," 5 cents. "Questions for Girls," (New Series, Nos. 1–8,) 5 cents. "Daniel," (Home College Series, No. 14,) 5 cents.

III. Methodist Episcopal.

"Outlines of Church History," 50 cents. "Heroic Methodists of the Olden Time," $1 25. Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 42. "Outlines of Methodism," by James M'Gee, 10 cents. "History of Methodism for Young People," by Bennett, $1 25. "Shield of Faith," by Hawley, 25 cents. "First Words to a Probationer," (New Series, 113,) 3 cents. Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 30, "World of Missions," 10 cents. "Young Workers in the Church," by Neely, $1. "Probationer's Catechism and Compendium," by S. O. Garrison, Paper, 15 cents; Flexible Cloth, 20 cents; Cloth, 25 cents.

Persons passing through the "Religious Literature for Young Christians" and "Methodist Episcopal" courses, will, on their pastor's recommendation, be entitled to a Lyceum Reading Union Certificate and a single seal. Each additional course after that will entitle the holder to an additional seal.

IV. Biographical and Historical.

Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 35. "Outlines of General History," 10 cents; No. 21. "Outlines of American History," 10 cents. Home College Series.—No. 46. "The United States," 5 cents; No. 3. "Egypt," 5 cents; No. 45. "The Euphrates Valley," 5 cents; No. 11. "Greece," 5 cents; No. 5. "Rome," 5 cents; No. 44. "France," 5 cents; No. 35. "Palestine," 5 cents; No. 6. "England," 5 cents; No. 19. "China and Japan," 5 cents; No. 29. "Themistocles and Pericles," 5 cents; No. 30. "Alexander," 5 cents; No. 31. "Coriolanus and Maximus," 5 cents; No. 32. "Demosthenes and Alcibiades," 5 cents; No. 33. "The Gracchi," 5 cents; No. 34. "Cæsar and Cicero," 5 cents. Macaulay's "Frederick the Great," (Half-Hour Series,) 25 cents. Lyceum Library, (Youth's Series.)—No. 1. "Stories of English History," 10 cents; No. 21. "Granada," 10 cents; No. 22. "Columbus," 10 cents; No. 23. "Pizarro," 10 cents; No. 24. "Cortes," 10 cents; No. 25. "Three Indian Heroes," 10 cents; No. 26. "David Livingstone," 10 cents.

V. General Literature.

"Mental Culture Considered as a Christian's Duty," (Magazine Series, No. 82,) 8 cents. "What Shall I Read?" 65 cents. Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 25, "Self-Education," 10 cents; No. 27. "Readings from Ancient Classics," 10 cents. Home College Series.—No. 23. "Shakespeare," 5 cents; No. 26. "Milton," 5 cents; No. 18. "Spenser," 5 cents; No. 13. "George Herbert," 5 cents; No. 17. "Addison," 5 cents; No. 2. "William Wordsworth," 5 cents; No. 1. "Carlyle," 5 cents; No. 8. "Washington Irving," 5 cents; No. 21. "Wm. H. Prescott," 5 cents; No. 4. "H. W. Longfellow," 5 cents; No. 63. "Readings from Milton," Part I, 5 cents; No. 68. "Readings from Milton," Part II, 5 cents; No. 55. "Readings from Goldsmith," 5 cents; No. 52. "Readings from Cowper," 5 cents; No. 62. "Readings from Tennyson," 5 cents; No. 54. "Words," 5 cents. Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 23. "English Literature," 10 cents; No. 9. "William Cullen Bryant," 10 cents. Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar," (Rolfe's Edition,) Paper, 40 cents; Cloth, 56 cents. Macaulay's "Warren Hastings" and "Lord Bacon," each, 25 cents. Hawthorne's "Biographical Stories," 15 cents. "Evangeline," 20 cents.

VI. Science.

Science Ladder Series.—No. 1. "Forms of Land and Water," 50 cents. Johannet's "Geographical Reader," $1 25. Home College Series.—No. 16. "The Rain," 5 cents; No. 47. "The Ocean," 5 cents. Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 2, "Studies of the Stars," 10 cents. Home College Series.—No. 7. "The Sun," 5 cents; No. 15. "The Moon," 5 cents; No. 20. "The Planets," 5 cents; No. 25. "The Stars," 5 cents. "The History of a Candle," 85 cents. "Primer of Physics," by Balfour Stewart, 45 cents. Home College Series.—No. 71. "A Few Facts about Chemistry," 5 cents; No. 72. "A Few Facts about Geology," 5 cents; No. 73. "A Few Facts about Zoology," 5 cents; No. 74. "The Circle of the Sciences," 5 cents. "Easy Lessons in Vegetable Biology," Paper, 25 cents; Cloth, 40 cents. Lyceum Library, (Youth's Series.)—No. 12. "History of a Tea-Cup and Railway Pioneers," 10 cents; No. 17. "Men of Iron and Three Great Potters," 10 cents; No. 16. "The Alchemists," 10 cents. Home College Series.—No. 39. "Diamonds," 5 cents; No. 24. "Geometry," 5 cents; No. 9. "Political Economy," 5 cents.

VII. Art.

Chautauqua Text-Books.—No 32. "A Brief Outline of the History of Art," 10 cents. Home College Series.—No. 10. "Art in Egypt," 5 cents; No. 51. "Art in the Far East," 5 cents; No. 56. "Art in Greece," 5 cents; No. 57. "Art in Italy," 5 cents; No. 58. "Art in Germany," 5 cents; No. 59. "Art in France," 5 cents; No. 60. "Art in England," 5 cents; No. 61. "Art in America," 5 cents.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

Home College Series.—No. 22. "Wise Sayings of Common Folk," 5 cents; No. 28. "Housekeeper's Guide," 5 cents; No. 27. "Penmanship," 5 cents; No. 37. "The Watch and the Clock," 5 cents; No. 38. "A Set of Tools," 5 cents; No. 50. "Ten Days in Switzerland," 5 cents; No. 48. "Two Weeks in the Yosemite," 5 cents. Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 43. "Good Manners," 10 cents. Temperance Tracts, (New Series,) 22–27, No. 47, Nos. 51–65, 20 cents. Chautauqua Text-Books.—No. 45. "Alcohol," by Rev. C. H. Budd, 10 cents. "How to Get Strong and How to Stay So," Paper, 50 cents; Cloth, $1. Lyceum Library, (Youth's Series.)—No. 18. "Stories of the Sea," 10 cents.

IX. THE C. L. S. C.

Persons who have completed the preceding courses, on giving satisfactory assurance of the same to the officers of the C. L. S. C., (Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle,) may, on the following conditions, receive a diploma from that institution:

1. They will be expected to read the CHAUTAUQUAN[1] for three consecutive years.
2. To read four of the C. L. S. C. required books, (said books to be indicated by the Superintendent of Instruction of the C. L. S. C.)
3. To read "The Hall in the Grove."
4. To fill out the required memoranda.

X. STANDARD BOOKS.

Persons who prefer a few substantial books to the more condensed and fragmentary selections of the previous courses may, *in lieu* of them, read the following:[2]

"Hints for Home Reading," Boards, 75 cents; Cloth, $1. "Mosaics of Bible History," 2 vols., $3. "History of Ancient Peoples," Steele, $1 25. Johannet's "Geographical Reader," $1 25. Quackenbos' "Ancient History and Literature," $1. "Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation," Paper, 60 cents; Cloth, $1 25. "Abbott's Life of Christ," $1 75. "Conflict of Christianity with Heathenism," $2 50. "Gesta Christi," $2 50. "Nineteen Christian Centuries," $1. Mackenzie's "Nineteenth Century," 15 cents. "History of Art," De Forest, $2. Cleveland's "English Literature," $2 20. "The England of Shakespeare," E. Goadby, Paper, 25 cents; Cloth, 50 cents. "Recreations in Astronomy," Warren, $1 75. Dana's "Abridged Geology," $1 55. "Religion and Chemistry," $1 50. "Introductory Science Primer," by Huxley, 45 cents. Arthur's "Tongue of Fire," Paper, 40 cents; Cloth, 60 cents.

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[1] Published by T. L. FLOOD, MEADVILLE, PA., and is the organ of the C. L. S. C. Price, $1 50 per annum.

[2] Readers of the above may complete the Chautauqua course as indicated on page 22.

SECOND-HAND BOOKS.

The following from A. H. Gillet, General Agent:

DEAR FRIEND: At a session of the Sunday-School Normal Institute, recently held in this city, the following report, made by a special committee consisting of Rev. I. W. Joyce, D.D., Rev. W. L. Hypes, D.D., and Rev. F. G. Mitchell, was unanimously adopted:

"For the purpose of doing what we believe to be our duty in trying to meet the prevailing destitution, in portions of our country, of Sunday-school literature, we suggest—

"1. That each pastor bring the subject to the attention of his congregations, and ask the families to generously contribute such books from their libraries as will be suitable for Sunday-school and church libraries in the South and West.

"2. That each pastor also bring the same subject to the attention of his Sunday-School Board, and suggest to it the propriety of contributing all Journals, Lesson Leaves, books, singing-books, and other helps they can spare for this work.

"3. That each pastor shall see to the collection of this material in his own church, and have it delivered to the Book Concern subject to the order of Rev. A. H. Gillet.

"4. That we indorse the appeal made by Bro. Gillet through the Church papers, and will, to the extent of our ability and opportunity, co-operate with him in any effort to meet this great need."

I have now in hand over seventy applications from really destitute schools in the South and West, and could use ten thousand second-hand library books where they would serve a most excellent purpose. The need is an urgent and important one. Will you not carry out the suggestion of the report at the earliest practicable moment, and let me know the results? Ask the children of the Sunday-school to bring from their homes books they can spare for these poor. If you can do so, take a supplemental collection for the Sunday-School Union in the Sunday-school for this work, and report the amount to me, and I will see that your school has a letter from some new school.

TRACT SOCIETY.

THE TRACT BOARD.

In the same steady way of the olden times, the tract work of our Church moves forward. The lists are gradually enlarged. Tracts are provided adapted to the needs of all classes of persons who come under pastoral oversight. Where ministers have faith in tract distribution, and are wise in their methods of it, they find the provisions made by our Society ample both as to variety and quantity of publications. Where ministers are unbelieving they are apathetic. No tracts being distributed in their churches, no collections are taken in behalf of the Tract Society. By faithful visitation, as far as practicable, at the Annual Conference, by a representation of the work and needs of the Society where opportunity offers before our churches, through the example of faithful pastors who take broad views of the pastoral office and through tract distribution secure results, we hope to increase the faith of the Church in this arm of her service.

General impressions are hard to overcome, and the almost universal conviction in the Church that the Tract Society is one of its smallest institutions, and has comparatively little claim upon the beneficence of its membership or the earnestness of its pastors, renders it a difficult thing to make much progress in the collections taken or the tracts distributed. It is rarely that such intangible and injurious impression voices itself openly in the hearing of the Church ; but in a recent editorial in one of our Church papers, the editor, in presenting the claims of the Freedmen's Aid Society, warns the Church against "classing this Society with that of the Sunday-School Union and Tract." Its work is regarded but as small, and its claims feeble, and an editorial utterance of this kind must prove detrimental to the cause. How to overcome the impression deprecated is a problem not easily solved.

Increased attention is being given to the circulation of temperance tracts in our Church. The awakening of all classes of the community to the evils of the liquor traffic, and

the necessity of some bold movement on the part of temperance advocates, renders the circulation of temperance literature very important. I am happy to say that the editors and publishers are co-operating in the production of some temperance tracts, which, for beauty and cheapness, will meet the demands of the hour.

The Tract Society is making an experiment in the publication of tracts on general, biographical, historical, scientific, sanitary, and other subjects. Young people will read. Many of those who are disposed to read useful matter are very poor.

This is an age of cheap literature, and it is also an age of condensation. To provide cheap and condensed reading-matter, by which young people will be encouraged to read useful material, a series of Home College Tracts has been prepared. Thirty-eight are already on our list, as follows:

1. Thomas Carlyle.....By Daniel Wise, D.D.
2. William Wordsworth..... " " " "
3. Egypt..... " Rev. J. I. Boswell.
4. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow... " Daniel Wise, D.D.
5. Rome..... " Rev. J. I. Boswell.
6. England..... " " " "
7. The Sun..... " Rev. C. M. Westlake, M.S.
8. Washington Irving..... " Daniel Wise, D.D.
9. Political Economy..... " Rev. G. M. Steele, D.D.
10. Art in Egypt..... " Rev. E. A. Rand.
11. Greece..... " Rev. J. I. Boswell.
12. Christ as a Teacher..... " Bishop E. Thomson.
13. George Herbert..... " Daniel Wise, D.D.
14. Daniel the Uncompromising Young Man..... " Rev. C. H. Payne, D.D.
15. The Moon..... " Rev. C. M. Westlake, M.S.
16. The Rain..... " Miss Carrie R. Dennen.
17. Joseph Addison..... " Daniel Wise, D.D.
18. Edmund Spenser..... " " " "
19. China and Japan..... " Rev. J. I. Boswell.
20. The Planets..... " Rev. C. M. Westlake, M.S.
21. William Hickling Prescott..... " Daniel Wise, D.D.
22. Wise Sayings of the Common Folk.
23. William Shakespeare.....By Daniel Wise, D.D.
24. Geometry.
25. The Stars.....By Rev. C. M. Westlake, M.S.
26. John Milton..... " Daniel Wise, D.D.

27. Penmanship.
28. Housekeeper's Guide.
29. Themistocles and Pericles.....(From Plutarch.)
30. Alexander ..... " "
31. Coriolanus and Maximus..... " "
32. Demosthenes and Alcibiades.... " "
33. The Gracchi..... " "
34. Cæsar and Cicero..... " "
35. Palestine..... ..By Rev. J. I. Boswell.
36. Readings from Wm. Wordsworth.
37. The Watch and the Clock.....By Rev. Alfred Taylor.
38. A Set of Tools..... " " "

Price, 5 cents each, or $3 50 per hundred.

A GOOD IDEA.

A pastor in the Northern New York Conference writes:

Inclosed please find $2, for which send me tracts suitable for the carrying out of the following plan: At the close of each prayer-meeting or class-meeting, each person who will promise to read and afterward give away the tract to some one who may be benefited by it, will be requested to take a copy. All who take tracts will be invited to leave any money they may desire to give for the purchase of more tracts on the table from which their tracts are taken. W. F. BALL.

FROM JAPAN.

NAGASAKI, JAPAN, May 4, 1883.

To Rev. J. M. FREEMAN, D.D., Ass't Editor, etc., etc.:

DEAR BROTHER: Your letter dated March 21, 1883, transmitting to my care bill of exchange for $500 for tract work in the Japan Mission, and also a letter to Brother Soper, came duly to hand. It may give you some conception of the growth of the work of Christian missions in Japan when I write that your letter reached me in the city of Osaca, where, accompanied by Mrs. Maclay, I was in attendance at the General Conference of Protestant Missionaries in Japan, comprising over one hundred members, the sessions of which body continued from the 16th to the 21st April. Full reports of the Conference will be published. The meeting was a most excellent one, and will doubtless exert a salutary influence on the interests of Christian missions in Japan.

Very many thanks for the financial aid just received from you. It will soon be transmuted into Christian literature for the edification of the members of the Christian Churches of Japan. I wish the amount of the grant

were twice what it is. The present opportunities for Christian work in Japan are unprecedented. The soil is prepared; now is the seed-time for the Church. Pray for Japan.

Yours very truly, R. S. MACLAY.

NORWEGIAN LOAN LIBRARY.

Rev. J. M. FREEMAN, D.D., New York:

I hereby render thanks for the new grant from the Tract Society to our Loan Libraries. It helped to increase the number to seventy. Forty-nine vessels have now been supplied with libraries since we commenced, a year ago, or about ten per cent. of the Norwegian vessels that have been here. Two of these vessels have suffered shipwreck, and one burned. The following extracts from letters will show how the libraries take:

LAGUNA, Jan. 28, 1883.

Rev. CHR. TREIDER:

. . . I feel it is my duty to write you a few lines. When we were eight days out of New York we had a strong gale with heavy sea, and got some water into the cabin, whereby some of the books became a little spotted, but otherwise they are in good condition. May the Lord make them a great blessing to the crew! I thought we should have had a chance to return to New York, but as we shall go to some other place, I send you our thanks for your kindness and care for us. The books have been a great blessing to me, and I hope they have been so to the rest. As we probably shall go home from England, I shall try to return the library with another vessel bound to New York as soon as I find a chance.

The grace of God be with you in your great work.

Your humble brother in Christ, J. C. N. JOHANSEN,
Mate on bark *Odd*, Tuedestrand, Norway.

SANTOS, BRAZIL, March 12, 1883.

THE NORWEGIAN BETHEL MISSION, Brooklyn:

I will send you a few words about the library we received from you in August last year. Both the captain and crew have read the books with much interest. For my part I have read some of them over and over again. They are indeed very good for those who have any taste for spiritual things. I have received many a blessing from reading Moody's sermons, and hope the crew has been much benefited. One of our men is deeply convicted of sin, blessed be God!

For myself I rejoice in the mercy of God, and often wonder at his goodness to me, unworthy as I am. I am trying to lead a holy life, and pray that we may meet in the home of eternal glory.

We went from New York to Stettin. Three days out from New York, a storm carried away our rigging, so we had a busy time across. We

are going from here to St. Thomas. If I find a vessel bound for New York I will return the library in case we should not get a chance to come to New York. Yours in Christ, E. OLSEN,
Mate, bark *Cito*,* Arendal, Norway,

LISBON, PORTUGAL, April 1, 1883.

MR. TREIDER:

I received a loan library from you when we were in New York in January. We arrived here March 23, and shall probably go from here to Plymouth and home. The library has been well used all the time, and the whole crew ask me to return thanks for the books. We have tried to take as good care of them as possible, but they have nevertheless been some soiled. As soon as the men have had their meals they go for the books, and read them with great interest; and they are indeed good, religious books. Yours, etc., MORTEN ANDERSEN,
Mate, bark *S. B. Mesina*, Arendal, Norway.

MACATLAND, March 26, 1883.

. . . I will send you a few lines and let you know that we arrived here all well after 139 days' journey, and shall return to New York again. The library is taken well care of. One man has been converted on the journey. We long to gather with you again.
Yours, etc., S. H. JOHANSEN.
Bark *Aeolus*, Krozero, Norway.

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* When the *Cito* was in New York a year ago this month four of the crew were converted in our mission.

BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION.

DIRECTORY.

PROPER CORPORATE NAME: "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH."

OFFICE: CHURCH EXTENSION ROOMS, No. 1026 ARCH-STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ORGANIZATION, CHARTER, ETC.—See Discipline, Edition of 1880, ¶ 283 to ¶ 307. See also Report to General Conference of 1880; tracts, etc., furnished by the Board.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE meets annually in the month of November in the Church Extension Rooms, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION meets on the second Wednesday in each month in the Church Extension Rooms.

THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, *Rev. A. J. Kynett, D.D.*, has charge of all the correspondence and business of the Board. All communications should be addressed to him at No. 1026 Arch-street, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE ASSISTANT CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, *Rev. C. C. M'Cabe, D.D.*, serves in the field. His address is No. 184 Thirty-first-street, Chicago, Ill.

THE TREASURER, *James Long, Esq.*, has charge of the funds, as his office implies. All remittances of money should be by draft on New York, or Post-office Money-Order on Philadelphia, Pa., payable to his order, and inclosed to the Corresponding Secretary as above directed.

ALL APPLICATIONS FOR AID must be made, as the Discipline provides, upon blank forms furnished by the Board, and in strict accordance therewith.

IN ALL BEQUESTS the following form should be observed:

I give and bequeath to "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, the sum of .....; and the receipt of the Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors for the same.

IN DEVISES OF REAL ESTATE observe the following:

I give and bequeath to "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, the following land and premises, that is to say:

.....

.....

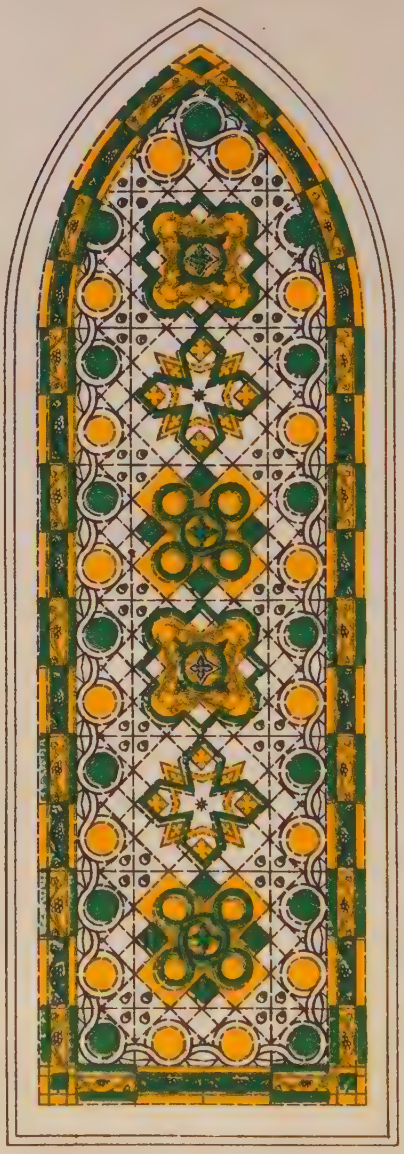
to have and to hold the same, with the appurtenances, to the said Board, its successors and assigns, forever.

Persons making Bequests and Devises to the Board, or knowing that they have been made, are requested to notify the Corresponding Secretary, at No. 1026 Arch-street, Philadelphia, Pa., and, if practicable, to inclose a copy of the clause in the will, that the wishes of the testator may be fully known.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, blank deeds, church plans, tracts, leaflets, etc., concerning Church Extension, write to the Corresponding Secretary.

PAPER IMITATION OF STAINED GLASS

FOR WINDOWS OF CHURCHES—300 HAVE USED IT.
EQUALLY ADAPTED TO LARGE OR SMALL WINDOWS.
LARGE OR SMALL PANES OF GLASS.



In ordering, send drawing, showing size and form of windows, and size of panes of glass. Give sizes in figures and number of windows. Our favorite colors are Red, Yellow, Green, Purple and Blue, on Black and White Ground. We make designs and combinations in great variety, and give full directions for putting on.

Price, Six Cents per square foot, surface measure.

Samples showing all the colors used, sent for 50 cents. No other orders filled for less than $1.00.

TESTIMONIALS.

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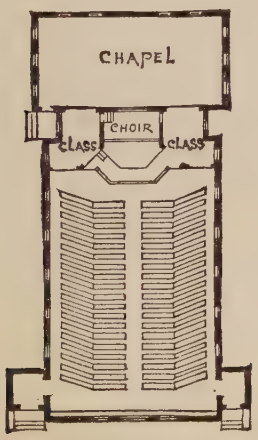
OUR ARCHITECTURAL PLANS.

This one appears in our Catalogue for 1883 as No. 26. The auditorium is 44x72 feet; 22 feet to the square, ceiling raised to 32 feet in the middle. The chapel, at the rear, is 24x46 feet, 16 feet posts, with raised ceiling 22 feet high in the middle. Class-rooms are placed at each side of the pulpit, opening by folding-doors into both the chapel and the auditorium, as shown in the ground plan.

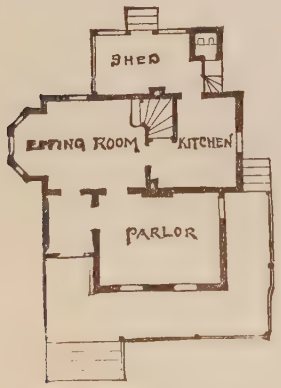


NO. 26, GROUND PLAN.

The price of this plan, including detailed drawings, specifications, and form of contract, is $30. The whole would cost, where labor and material are quite cheap, about $6,000. It is a frame building.

Persons desiring to build should order our Catalogue and carefully consider our suggestions and our various plans therein described.

We have added largely to our variety of plans for parsonages. Our Catalogue for 1883 shows 14 different plans. Of course they are suited to any ordinary dwellings, and are well adapted to procure the best results at the least expense. This one appears in our Catalogue for 1883 as No. 14, on p. 76.



NO. 10, GROUND PLAN.

It is a two-story house. The posts are 20 feet. The first floor is 8 feet 6 inches in the clear; the second floor is 8 feet in the clear. The parlor is 11 feet 6 inches by 15 feet. The living-room is 11 by 16 feet 6 inches. The entrance vestibule is 5 by 7 feet with doors into the parlor and into the living-room. The kitchen is 10 by 12 feet. There is a shed-kitchen containing place for coal, or wood, etc. The second floor is divided into three rooms, and the attic into two rooms; each has a large closet. The two chimneys are so placed that every room may have a stove, or with two stoves down stairs the three second-story rooms may be heated.

The price of the plan is $5. The building will cost, where labor and material are cheap, about $1,200.

All persons desiring to build dwellings can avail themselves of our plans at regular published prices. Send for catalogue.

TO CHURCH AND PARSONAGE BUILDERS.

Do you contemplate building a church or a parsonage? Would you like the benefit of the experience of others in similar work? If so

1. Send for our Catalogue of Architectural Plans. A simple request will bring it. We want to help you, and have prepared it for this purpose. The only condition previously required is a purpose to build either a church or a parsonage. Otherwise send twenty-five cents to pay cost of printing and postage.

A California presiding elder says of the edition for 1883:

It is very far in advance of previous issues, which is high commendation. And then the additional *parsonage* designs are ahead of the best departure in modern architecture. With the adoption of these at the rate of "*two a day*" Methodism, in her congregations and ministers, will soon be the best-housed Church on earth. Send me six copies of Catalogue for use on my district; also Plan No. 1 B, size 28x45, p. 12, for church in Pomona, for which find inclosed money-order for the price stated, $5 25.

That is business. The Catalogues and Plan were sent immediately.

2. When you get the Catalogue read it with care, especially the general information and suggestions. *Begin with the beginning.* The second page is especially important.

3. Then proceed according to the suggestions "*How to build a Church.*" They are the result of much experience and careful observation, and cannot be too closely followed.

4. Do not allow ignorant and inexperienced men to prevent your getting a plan before beginning work. Better buy the plan yourself and give that, than to give ten times its cost in cash and build without.

5. Be especially guarded against change after having adopted your plan. No disinterested man of experience will suggest it. An Iowa pastor, building by our Plan 19 A, writes:

We are plastering to-day. Our little church is a beauty, but I have had a great fight of affliction to hold *our builder* to the plan. If we had listened to changes vehemently urged there would have been nothing left like the plan, nor any thing fit to be seen out of doors."

That builder will bear watching. He reminds us of one who, a few years ago, persuaded a board of trustees to let him

build without plans and save $150, which the architect would have charged ; and then, after building a very unsightly structure, brought in a " bill of extras " of over $800.

Singularly enough, while writing this, a letter comes from this same Iowa pastor, informing us that their builder has *mislaid* their plan, and asking for a duplicate. We send it at half price, and, without charge, exhort the trustees to hold that builder firmly to his contract. What could they do without one of our plans which we can easily duplicate from original drawings ?

OUR NEW YORK CONFERENCE ANNIVERSARY.

It may be that Conference anniversaries are sometimes too numerous. They certainly are when three or four are crowded into one afternoon, or two of our great connectional causes are put together in one evening. The most profitable Conference sessions we have ever attended have been those in which devotional services began the day, the business of the Conference filled the forenoon, the afternoon being given to committees and miscellaneous services, and the evening devoted to the anniversary of some one of our great connectional enterprises, —all being well attended by the preachers. Such, in our view, is a model Conference, a blessing to the Church and to the community in which it is held.

When those in charge of a Conference session give our cause an evening we feel solemnly bound to make the occasion one of interest and profit, and to give those in attendance a clear view of the work of Church Extension in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Whether, with such an opportunity, we fail, we must leave those present to judge, but that, sometimes, great good results is universally conceded.

The following, from the pen of Rev. Dr. Wheatley, describes to the readers of *Zion's Herald* our anniversary at the late session of the New York Conference, held at Peekskill :

> You know Chaplain M'Cabe. He is inimitable. He is a member of this Conference, and, therefore, at home. Where is he not at home ? His anniversary, the Church Extension, occurred the night before the close of Conference. The church—pews, pulpit, aisles, altar—was crowded. He sang, and he is " quite a singer." Then he talked. The talk was dessert after dinner. Enjoying the dessert, the people became good-humored,

then excited, then generous. He told the old story—with variations, amusing, touching variations. Then he asked for a church—or $250 which would build one, with help. He couldn't sleep comfortably unless he had a church to sleep with every night. A kindly layman accommodated him. Then he wanted two churches, and got them. "Let's have four," he suggested, and the four were forthcoming. "Now, let's have six!" The Chaplain's bed was becoming crowded, but the people pushed them in. "Now, let's have eight!" Smiles. A song by the Chaplain, and a mighty chorus by the congregation. Then ten were obtained. "Now, let's have twelve!" His love for churches is insatiable. The twelve were secured. The Chaplain's clerical bed-fellow now thought of putting that prince of beggars under the bed that night—there were so many churches. That did not hinder the Chaplain from ejaculating, "Now, let's have fourteen!" The jolly sunniness of the request was irresistible. But fourteen did not satisfy him. No less than twenty churches—in *posse*—were carried by the songful M'Cabe to his bed-chamber that night. How he slept we haven't heard. Five thousand dollars—the largest collection he ever received—will only increase his craving for more churches.

Yes, and it will increase the craving of the Conference for more churches, and such anniversaries in all the Conferences would increase the craving of the whole denomination for enlarged success in every part of our work put thus into the hearts of all our preachers and people.

METHODISM AGGRESSIVE.

Rev. Dr. Fullerton says:

Aggressiveness has always been one of Methodism's leading characteristics. It has taken long and rapid strides among the nations of the earth; and yet it scorns to grow strong from the ranks of others, or to place a barrier in the way of any other Church where evangelical truth is held. It is painful, indeed, to watch the efforts of some denominations of only passing importance, who do their mission in a very unchristian manner. Their chief aim seems to be not so much to save the souls of men, as to garner them from other parts of the household of faith. They seem to glory in trying to overthrow other Churches. Such conduct is unchristian and degrading. We do not wish that Methodism should reap fruit with so much shame, but prefer "to go to them that sell, and buy for ourselves." Any thing resembling petty robbery, in the name of Christ, is an insult to his cause, and dishonoring to his kingdom. What kind of aggression do we ask, then, for Methodism? A steady march against the world, the flesh, and the devil—entering every stronghold of Satan, and demanding unconditional surrender, in the name of the adorable Trinity. Going where we are needed—going where we are needed most.

HOW TO RAISE THE COLLECTIONS.

A pastor, who modestly objects to the use of his name, but not to the benefit of his example, increased his Church Extension collection three times over by marking on a map the churches aided in 1881, and hanging under that another map showing churches aided in 1882. The people saw the point and gave $121. This sum, mind you, is given by a small and poor charge. Our people have heart, conscience, and brains. If duly and vividly informed they will give to all our benevolent causes.

Apropos to this, Chaplain M'Cabe recently said through the "North-Western:"

Sometimes I think it would be a good plan for all those who are trying to furnish the "sinews of Zion's war," to stop and give a whole year to the work of getting every Methodist family in the whole denomination to take a Church paper. When I find a community where the people are informed upon our Church enterprises we feel the difference instantly. On Monday, May 21, I addressed an audience composed mostly of farmers and their families, at Preemption, Ill. Rev. B. E. Kaufman, the pastor, had carefully prepared the way for the meeting. The collection was $300. This charge has often been the banner charge of the Conference on Missions also. There are hundreds of churches in the North-west that would do as well for our great connectional interests if they were as well instructed. After the meeting was over, Mrs. Eliza Clark said to me: "My cabin was the first place opened in this part of the country for Methodist preaching; and all my five children have been converted. One of my sons I gave to my country, and the rest are with me to-day." The prospect now is that Preemption will report the largest Church Extension collection, and the largest Missionary collection in the Central Illinois Conference. There is a little secret I didn't tell you yet. Nearly all the congregation were of Irish birth. There is no people on earth that Methodism suits better than the Irish. If Ireland would listen to John Wesley, instead of Pope Leo, her days of poverty and sorrow would be over very soon. The Protestant Irish are the most glorious people on this planet, and my great-grandfather was one of them. How glad I am that he came over here, so I could be born in this, my native country, under the stars and stripes.

DONATIONS IN PROPORTION TO COLLECTIONS.

The Conferences, in their relations to our work under the action of the General Committee of Church Extension, are divided into three classes:

1. *Strong Conferences, well supplied with churches.* These are properly asked to give more than can be appropriated to churches within their bounds, such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, New England, and others, chiefly in the north-eastern section of the country.

2. *Conferences within which the ability of some charges is about equal to the wants of others.* In these, needy churches may receive amounts equal to the collections taken within the Conference. Most of our German Conferences are of this class; also, as now situated, Detroit, Michigan, Kansas, etc.

3. *Weak Conferences, especially those occupying mission territory*, where the work to be done is much beyond the strength of the people within the Conference, such as the Alabama, Arkansas, Nebraska, Texas, etc. To these may be added our Missions occupying the Territories.

The necessity and value of our Church Extension work comes out of the fact that the money to do the work must be secured in one locality, and the work must be done in another. The principle applies to new and weak neighborhoods within a strong Conference, as well as numbers of them together in remote Conferences.

As the Church expects Missionary offerings from all her missions—even the feeblest—so also she expects Church Extension offerings from all the churches, in the weaker as well as in the stronger Conferences. Accordingly the Board of Church Extension is authorized to furnish aid to needy churches in each Conference in proportion to amounts raised by each severally. Under this arrangement, while Conferences of the first class may receive an amount equal to the fraction of their collections determined by the General Committee, and those of the second class an amount equal to the collections they may take; those of the third class may receive five, or six, or ten times as much as they shall give.

The disposition to do nothing because they can do but little often controls whole congregations and Conferences, as well as individuals, and is a fruitful source of evil. It has greatly hindered our work, especially in the weaker Conferences where it is most felt. Some of them have almost entirely neglected our collections, and yet have continued to send forward their

applications for aid. Hitherto we have responded generously in anticipation that they would, before the close of their year, send in the small amounts asked, but they have so utterly failed, that we have been compelled to discontinue appropriations until they shall do better. A few, last year, made no report at all, while others, who were entitled to receive eight or ten dollars for one, forwarded a mere fraction of the little asked. Within the last two months we have been compelled to decline all applications from such Conferences, however needy and deserving the churches seeking aid might be, for the reason that the meager collections left us without the funds available for the aid desired. We exceedingly regret the necessity that has compelled this course, but the only escape from it is for all the preachers of the several Conferences to give needful attention to the subject, and raise, at least, the amount asked.

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE.

Among the Conferences in which we were compelled to decline applications for want of funds, in consequence of the neglect of our collections, was the Little Rock. We notified the Presiding Elders in this Conference, as in others, of our action, and the reasons for it. Among the replies received we give the following from Rev. L. W. Elkins, of Hot Springs District, this Conference:

I am very glad to get detailed statement of the amounts this Conference has raised for Church Extension, together with statement of donations and loans within the Conference for the last three years. I read your letter to my District Conference in Texarkana, June 9, and the preachers agreed that they would raise the amount asked of this district at once or by the close of the present quarter, and forward to you. We will apply again for help for some of our churches as soon as we have taken the collections; our preachers promise to do what they can.

I am new to this work, having been a member of this Conference only two years and a half, most of that time having been at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill. This is a very difficult field, but I am persuaded that the people can do better for benevolent collections than they have been doing heretofore. Will it be possible for us to get the amounts applied for in this district if we take the collections asked and forward them this quarter? And, if so, will it be necessary to make new applications?

We answer:

It will not be necessary to make new applications. If we shall get collections this year from this Conference which, *multiplied by four*, (the proportion authorized,) will give enough to justify granting them, we will gladly reconsider and grant all such worthy applications, provided the collections received in response to the call of the General Committee shall enable us to do so.

Several other Conferences are coming to feel the necessity of turning a few rain-drops into our cistern if they are to continue getting a generous supply out of it. We desire all to remember that our Board maintains an impartial administration, making no discrimination on account of race or color. The General Committee settles all questions of relative claims as among Conferences, and the proportions which donations may sustain to collections taken in each, so that our duties are greatly simplified when we come to consider particular applications.

"MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA."

This was done very effectively by General Sherman and his conquering legions in the memorable march "from Atlanta to the sea," but a broad path of destruction lay behind them. The work of reconstruction and restoration has gone forward much more slowly and painfully, as our brethren in Georgia can testify; but good and permanent progress has been made, and they are planning for better work in future. The Georgia Conference Board of Church Extension is disposed to do its part, as will be seen from the following from a recent appeal to the preachers and people of that Conference:

The Board of Church Extension of the Georgia Conference urges all of the pastors to faithfully represent the cause and take collections for Church Extension, according to the Discipline, and pleads with all members and friends of the Church to contribute liberally for this object. The amount asked of our Conference last year was $200; the amount allowed us to aid in church building was $800—*four dollars for one.* We raised only $71 65. This year we must raise the whole amount asked or suffer loss in consequence of failure to do so, as will be seen from the following regulations of the General Committee and of the Parent Board of Church Extension at Philadelphia acting for the whole Church, namely:

Resolved, 1. That the Board (Parent Board) be authorized to make appropriations within each Annual Conference IN PROPORTION TO THE

RESPONSE OF THE CONFERENCE by its collections to the call made upon it by the Church.

2. That the amounts authorized to Conferences are to be furnished, as far as practicable, by pro rata division of the collections. The Board may supplement, as far as practicable, the balance of the appropriations authorized by loans from the Loan Fund.

It is of great importance to our work in Georgia that we raise and pay over the whole of the $200 asked of us so that we can draw the entire sum of $800 as allowed to the Georgia Conference.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Board of Church Extension of the Georgia Annual Conference, namely:

1. *Resolved,* That we recommend no application unless the ground upon which the building is to be erected is properly deeded and the chain of title has been carefully examined and found good by a competent attorney. We recommend the form of deed prepared by the Georgia Conference.

2. *Resolved,* That we recommend no application unless the society making application has procured suitable plans and specifications by a competent architect; we much prefer those prepared by the Parent Board at Philadelphia.

3. *Resolved,* That it is the sense of this Board that the Presiding Elders are responsible for the proper management of all Church Extension funds coming into their respective districts, and for carrying out the provisions of the Discipline and the Parent Board, touching this subject, according to their true intent.

4. *Resolved,* That as the interest and work of Church Extension within the Georgia Conference are committed to this Board, we require a report by the Presiding Elder from each church aided under his administration, showing how the money has been expended, the progress of the work, and the results; and where money is not used within one year after it has been granted, that we will recommend its return to the Parent Board at Philadelphia.

OUR WORK IN EAST TENNESSEE.

Neither the division of the Church in 1844, nor the attempted division of the country less than twenty years thereafter, had the sympathy or concurrence of the people of East Tennessee. The Methodists of that region always retained a warm affection for the "old Church," and the people generally were true to the old flag through all the trying ordeal of the war. Accordingly, when the war closed, the Methodists of East Tennessee were the first to call for the reorganization of our Church within the territory of the old Holston Conference, and, responding to their call, Bishop Clark went down from

Cincinnati in June, 1865, and reorganized that Conference under the old name. At the session, in April, 1866, held at Greenville, Tenn., they reported 56 traveling and 137 local preachers; 159 churches, valued at $86,925; and 18,211 members and probationers. The spontaneity and unanimity of the movement is indicated in this fact, and in the subsequent history, showing a development like that of old Conferences occupying similar territory. The statistics of 1872 show 79 traveling and 155 local preachers; 204 churches, valued at $155,700, and 20,054 members and probationers. The development of our Church Extension work in that region has not been what we desire. The preachers and people have been very negligent in reference to our collections and the return of loans obtained, so that our work has been seriously retarded. During the past year we have been compelled to decline several needy and worthy applications for want of funds that would have been available had the preachers of that Conference presented our cause faithfully to the people. The indications are, however, that they now realize the situation, and are taking measures for better results hereafter. A letter just received from the Presiding Elder of Chattanooga District shows how the work prospers, and what is proposed for his part of the Conference:

We have in this district twenty church-building enterprises on hand. We have well-chosen sites, and our churches, when built, will be in localities where large congregations will be gathered and strong churches built up. In Bradley County we have ten good church buildings. We have some good church buildings in M'Minn County, but in Meigs, James, Polk, and Hamilton Counties we have comparatively little Church property. We must give increased attention to this department. Knoxville and Greenville Districts are much better supplied.

You have been building churches on the frontier by the gift of $250 to each. I propose to build twenty new churches in this district if we can secure $100 each—half of them this year, the other half next. I mean by building churches on this plan that we will finish them, paint, etc., and make them neat, attractive, and pleasant.

Our District Conference adopted a financial plan two years ago which we are carrying into operation. This year we shall raise all our Church Extension collections; not as a spasmodic effort, but by getting a good financial plan in operation. We apportion the amount asked for Church Extension to each church, and divide to each appointment, and, in a busi-

ness-like way, raise it. Knoxville and Greenville Districts will, I think, raise their proportion also, and we hope to raise this year the $500 asked of our Conference in full. We are trying to inaugurate a plain, sensible, practical plan that can be worked right along in a systematic and permanent way. We expect to bring all our work into harmony with the plans of the Discipline. I have now six applications approved by our Conference Board of Church Extension, which will be sent on in due time. I wanted to report our apportionment raised in full before sending the applications, and desired also to lay before you the extent and magnitude of our church-building operations on this district. It will cost nearly $50,000 to complete the church buildings we have now in hand, or have planned to build. Whatever you may or may not do, please do not reject our applications. If you must, let them lay over until money shall be to our credit. But please do not decline them. Our people are struggling and doing grandly, and we are planting our Church on solid foundations.

We have not now the funds needed to respond to the applications referred to, and a few other applications from other districts in the Conference must have favorable attention as soon as the amount for use in the Conference will permit, but if the Conference shall regularly respond in full to the call of the General Committee, we hope to be able to respond to all reasonable calls for building new churches in that Conference. The same might be said of other Conferences as well. We have called the attention of this brother, and now again call the attention of all concerned, to our provisions for furnishing architectural plans. We must insist in all cases that suitable plans shall be procured before commencing to build, and as we are prepared to furnish suitable plans at less cost than they can be had elsewhere, we insist that they shall select and build by plans furnished by our Board, and in order to do this, will send our catalogue free to any proposing to build.

If every pastor in Holston Conference, and in all the Conferences, would lay the facts concerning our work before their congregations, and solicit subscriptions, we could easily respond to all such reasonable calls.

SAMPLE RESULTS.

From the many dedications of churches built with aid from our Board, reported in our Church papers, we clip two or three at random :

Iuka, Kansas.

The new Methodist Episcopal church at Iuka, Pratt Co., Kansas, was dedicated April 29. It was erected after Church Extension Plan No. 1 B, and is substantially built. Rev. W. R. Rolingson writes: "Although in a county whose oldest settlers have been here scarcely five years, with a society of fifteen members, in a town fifty miles from a railroad, amid contentions arising from county affairs, it was determined to build a home for our Church membership. With a donation of $250, and a loan of $300 from our Board of Church Extension, and a subscription, the church was commenced. After the frame was up and the house partly inclosed, a cyclone took it down, but the next day a meeting of the trustees was called, and it was decided to push the matter forward. It was decided to call for aid; but no aid came. The pastor had canvassed the field so thoroughly that no individual, either in the Church or outside, thought the remaining $425 could be provided for. The Presiding Elder, Rev. N. S. Buckner, took charge, assisted by Rev. Rich, of Larned, a young man of great ability. To the surprise of all, except the ministers, the entire amount was pledged in cash and notes. Then came the rejoicing of all the people, for those not members rejoiced with the membership of the Church. The meeting closed with the sacrament, five uniting with the Church. No person is more faithful, more abundant in good works, than our Presiding Elder."

Longmont, Colorado.

May 27 was a red-letter day in the history of the Longmont (Col.) Methodist Episcopal Church, occasioned by the dedication of the new church building. The edifice is 32 feet by 54, with a tower 12 feet square. The interior of the church is beautifully finished. The total cost was $5,100. Seating capacity, 300. The plans were furnished by the Board of Church Extension, and give satisfaction. After a grand sermon by Dr. D. H. Moore, Chancellor of the Denver University, $700 was asked for to pay the indebtedness and put in a furnace in the fall. Dr. Moore conducted the finances with his usual ability, and in a short time $944 50 was paid and subscribed, besides a communion-set by Mrs. Rev. I. H. Beardsley, who had already, with her husband, subscribed $100. The Church has done nobly, and realizing her increased responsibilities, looks forward to a successful future. Rev. J. F. White, pastor.

Greenwood, Nebraska.

The Methodist church at Greenwood, Neb., was dedicated June 10 by Revs. P. S. Mather and S. P. Wilson, who managed, to the entire satisfaction of all. Last fall Pastor W. K. Loofbourrow, with about eight members and friends of the church, commenced the erection of the edifice, which was completed at a cost of $1,600. They received from the Church Extension Board $250, and a loan of $250. On the day of dedication $800 was provided for. This is a grand victory. Much is due to the

present pastor for his earnest work, and to the way in which the dedication was managed. If it had not been for the help from the Church Extension Board there would be no church in Greenwood. Now the people have the largest and best church in a growing town, and in a short time will send back the loan to be sent out again. Rev. E. Holland is pastor.

SPECIAL RELIEF.

We have been made to feel deeply the need of a *special relief fund*, or of a much larger amount available in our contingent fund to meet cases of special emergency. It will be remembered that, two years ago, a large section of northern Michigan was destroyed by fire, sweeping every thing in its course. An immediate and urgent necessity was thereby created for aid from abroad to rebuild their churches. The people were utterly helpless, and we were without funds available for such an emergency. The Detroit Conference appointed a special committee to supervise the work of restoration, and we aided all we could, partly from funds to the credit of the Conference, partly from the special frontier funds, and otherwise as could be made possible. Not a year passes that some unforeseen calamity does not fall upon some part of the field, rendering special and immediate relief imperative. A large increase of our regular collections, enabling the General Committee to set apart a larger amount in a contingent fund, or special offerings, creating a special relief fund, or both, would help us to respond promptly in such emergencies.

We seek to provide for our Home Mission fields in the regular way, and there are few houses of worship on the frontier that have not been aided by our Board.

By a donation of $700 and loan of $1,000 we aided our brethren in procuring a site and building a church at Deadwood, Dakota. The completion of the church and its dedication March 4 were duly reported in the "Black Hills Daily Times," from which we then clipped the following for our MANUAL:

Last Sunday was a gala day with our Methodist friends, and one to which they will always refer as the happiest in their existence as one of the churches of Deadwood. The history of the Methodist Church in this city is one replete with adversity, troubles, and disappointments, and to people of less pluck and determination than has been evinced by the society, the task of securing a house of worship would long ere this

have been given up as fruitless. But they were possessed of the true western grit ; and thanks to this grand characteristic they were enabled to build the beautiful edifice which, on last Sunday, they dedicated with imposing ceremonies to the worship of God, the High-Priest who rules over us all.

The day was clear and beautiful, and at ten o'clock the building was completely filled, every seat in it being occupied by members of the congregation and those of other Churches, who had come to witness the ceremonies. Rev. G. S. Pelton, of the Congregational Church, and Rev. H. B. Smith, of the American Bible Society, took part in the services. Rev. J. D. Searles preached a short sermon, having for his subject, "Religious Progress." At the conclusion of the discourse a collection was taken up, the sum of $1,375 being subscribed.

The evening exercises commenced at seven o'clock with a song-service lasting half an hour. Rev. Mr. Pelton then delivered the sermon on the subject, "The Pillar and Ground of Truth." At the conclusion of the sermon a collection was taken up, and the church delivered over to the pastor by the trustees. The ceremony of formally dedicating the building was then performed by the Rev. Mr. Searles.

The church is undoubtedly the handsomest and most valuable as well as comfortable house of worship in the Hills, and stands as a lasting and fitting monument to the zeal and energy of a small band of devout and sincere Christians, and to the liberality for which the people of the Black Hills are noted.

Now (and before we could give the report of the dedication in the MANUAL) we are called upon to stand by the brethren of that Mission, in a terrible disaster which the Superintendent, Rev. Jesse D. Searles, describes in a recent letter as follows:

You have heard, before this, of the great calamity that has come upon us at Deadwood. Our beautiful church at that place was swept away by a flood on the 18th of May, not leaving even the ground upon which it stood. The school-building by its side, which had cost the city $12,000, shared the same fate, as well as a valuable portion of the city, aggregating a loss of $200,000, besides many lives. Our church, commenced last June, was completed at a cost of $6,700, and dedicated on the 4th of March. On that day we raised by subscription $1,375, an amount sufficient to pay all indebtedness save that we owe to our Board of Church Extension. We then insured the building against loss by fire for an amount sufficient to pay all debts, and put us on our feet again in case of loss. This insurance avails nothing. The $1,375 raised at dedication will shrink largely because of donors' losses by the flood. We exhausted our resources largely in building. The city has more than it can do to repair its own loss. For the $900 we owe the Board of Church Extension, we

have only the *bed-rock* of the lot. Our trustees gave their personal as well as their official bond for this amount. Deadwood is vital to the Mission. We must rebuild on a new lot. The greater portion (at least $5,000) of the help must come from abroad. What can you do for us? Who, upon reading this statement, will send us help?

When this case was laid before the Presiding Elders' Convention at Minneapolis, a suggestion was immediately made, that it be referred to the Board of Church Extension, but being present, the Secretary called attention to the fact that it would be practically sending them to an empty treasury, and so joined with the Convention in commending the case in a general way to the Church. The Secretary fully agreed with members of the Convention that the right thing to do was for the Board of Church Extension immediately to furnish an amount sufficient to restore the property. A special relief fund, or a sufficient amount in the contingent fund, would have enabled us to do this. We earnestly recommend our pastors, every-where, to urge this consideration as a reason for larger contributions in our annual collections, and we cordially invite any who may be moved thereto to contribute to our treasury toward a special relief fund that shall be available in such emergencies.

"HOME, SWEET HOME."

The remains of John Howard Payne, the author of the above-named song, arrived in Washington March 24. They were removed from Tunis, at the expense of W. W. Corcoran, re-interred at Oak Hill Cemetery, and a beautiful monument erected to his memory. No doubt his tomb will be visited by many who have loved and sung the touching words penned by him years ago.

Now that this good work has been done, let us go on and build more churches, and make our nation's home still more worthy of the song.

THE LAST INTERVIEW.

The dying words of great and good men are always cherished with peculiar interest. When uttered by a devout and earnest servant of the Church, who looks backward upon a long and

useful life, and forward to a glorious immortality, they are an invaluable legacy to those who come after.

Chaplain M'Cabe had the good fortune to have a personal interview with Bishop Peck, at Syracuse, only a few days before his departure, and furnishes a brief report of it for our MANUAL:

"Bishop Peck sat in his arm-chair like a wounded soldier in his tent. I felt it was our last interview. His voice was hushed to a whisper, and the words came very slowly, so that, unobserved by him, I took them down. What a glorious testimony! At intervals he said:

"I have given away all I had because I have an ambition to die without any thing, for I am going to where I shall have infinite riches of a kind that will suit me better than any thing material could. I have no doubt but what the glory that Christ will give his redeemed ones will be so superior to earthly glory, that all but that will fade out by reason of the glory that excelleth.

"I have sought to demonstrate that a man need not be rich in order to be philanthropic; that, by careful economy and real consideration, we might lift all our enterprises into greatness. When we rise to that, when we grasp that, we shall be ready to march round the world, with banners flying, in ten years.

"I found it was not difficult to get grace to die any time, but a difficult thing to get grace to live and be laid aside. I achieved this victory until there was a perfect equilibrium between my will and the will of God, and I have had no choice since.

"If there was a cloud between me and the great sun, would I not see it? There is no cloud.

"I am perfectly satisfied with both sides of the river.

"The light that shines upon this life, and that which comes from the other, are so much alike that I can hardly tell them apart.

"'They shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy.' Why are they worthy? There is but one answer: 'Washed in the blood of the Lamb.'

"Your visit has been like Elim. Elim was a good place. There were twelve wells of water there, and three-score and ten palm-trees."

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

CONFERENCE ACTION.

It has come to be not only an appropriate but an expected part of the business of each Annual Conference to review and comment upon the interests and outlook of our general educational enterprise, as represented by this Board. Heretofore the views of many Conference committees seemed to be limited to local enterprises within their own bounds. But now it is seen, at least by all that are up with the present times, that one of the most interesting and inspiring aspects of the cause of Christian education is that in which a great Church is co-operating in its connectional capacity for the grandest of results. It is this, in fact, which gives the highest significance to local effort, and which invests with increased importance all that is done in behalf of each individual seminary and college.

While the work of each separate institution is important in itself, it becomes vastly more important when co-related to a great system of corresponding effort in which millions of people may be enlisted to work harmoniously, not only for the intellectual culture of their own children under Christian auspices, but also for the enlightenment of the whole world. All these considerations assume an enhanced and peculiar interest with the approach of the first Centenary of our Church.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS IN 1883.

North India.

Resolved, 1. That in accordance with Discipline, Article 154, Section 4, an Educational Society of the North India Conference, auxiliary to the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, be organized.

2. That the Board of Education of the Conference be recognized as this Educational Society.

3. That this Conference Educational Society annually elect from among its members three officers, namely, President, Secretary, and Treasurer; to serve one year.

4. That as a Conference we do our part in making the observance of

"Children's Day" universal throughout Methodism, and that we unite with the South India Conference in observing this day on the first Sabbath of March each year.

5. That each pastor take a collection on "Children's Day" and forward the same to the Treasurer of the Conference Educational Society; and that for the present such sums be appropriated to the educating Christian children in the central boarding-schools of each district, in accordance with the communication received from the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the practice in other foreign mission fields of our Church.

GEORGIA.

We recommend that collections be taken for educational purposes in all our congregations, and that the second Sunday in June be observed as "Children's Day" in accordance with the recommendation of the General Conference and the Board of Education.

LOUISIANA.

Resolved, That in the Board of Education, of which Dr. D. P. Kidder is Corresponding Secretary, the Church is a valuable auxiliary in our educational work.

This Society aids worthy young men and women in securing an education. To this Society the collections of Children's Day should be forwarded. Dr. Kidder's address is 805 Broadway, New York.

LEXINGTON.

We see daily the great need of education among our people. This is indeed one of the great levers that must elevate the race. It is with pleasure we report the spread of schools and colleges throughout the land. Our college in Nashville, Tenn., is in a flourishing condition, and doing an excellent work among our people in the South. The doors of Central Tennessee College are opened to all who may seek her advantages; therefore,

Resolved, That each pastor raise a good collection on his charge for the use of education.

The Report from the Board of Education shows how much has been done for this cause.

Resolved, That each pastor observe the Children's Day.

SAINT LOUIS.

Board of Education.

The circular and publications of the Board of Education sent to this Conference afford satisfactory evidence that it has already become a very effective agency for promoting ministerial education.

It asks only the generous support which every effort to advance higher religious education demands. Already nearly two hundred of those who

have been aided by the Board have gone to the foreign mission field and our home Annual Conferences.

The Board especially pleads for the observance of Children's Day—the second Sunday in June. Less than twenty of the charges of this Conference report collections of this kind this year. We urge upon our pastors a faithful observance of Children's Day, as recommended by the Discipline.

Missouri.

Our Centenary of 1884.

The committee appointed to consider the matter concerning the celebration of the Centennial of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church offer the following report:

We rejoice that plans are being perfected by means of which the whole Methodist Episcopal Church will be invited and urged to observe this important period in our history in a manner becoming the occasion. He who reads the present in the light of the past; compares our condition and prospects to-day with that of the fathers one hundred years ago, then beginning the experiment of a separate ecclesiastical existence, will hardly fail to have his heart moved with strong feelings of gratitude to that gracious Providence who has directed us in all our ways, and preserved and made us what we are. But gratitude, like grief, unless it finds practical expression, will evaporate in a sigh or distill in a tear. We therefore recommend that the Missouri Conference conduct the commemoration of the event after the following plan:

1. On the first Sundays in June of 1883 and 1884 that each pastor be requested to preach a sermon in each of our respective charges appropriate to the occasion.

2. That on Children's Day—the second Sunday in June in each of the years 1883 and 1884—that an especial effort be made to have our people to contribute liberally of their means, and whenever the observation of Children's Day shall be deemed impracticable, the same invitation shall be extended in every congregation.

North-west Kansas.

Resolved, That, with a view of making a deep and lasting impression upon the minds of our youth, of the importance of education and educational institutions, we recommend the general observance of Children's Day, and the circulation of such suitable literature among our people as will prepare them for an intelligent and successful celebration of our Centenary of Methodism in 1884.

North Indiana.

Children's Day.

We heartily recommend the general observance of Children's Day in all our charges.

Virginia.

Believing as we do in the importance and necessity of education among all our people, and especially among our ministers, we exhort all our preachers and people to assist by their influence and means this very important object. It is recommended that the second Sunday in June, 1883, be every-where observed as Children's Day, and that whenever practicable a collection be taken in the Sunday-school in aid of our Board of Education.

Wilmington.

Your committee have heretofore in this report alluded to those institutions of the Church that concern more especially the adult and the youth of the Church, but the great Head of the Church put it into the heart of our leaders to call upon and to enlist the children in the cause of education. How grandly the children paid off the missionary debt of the Church when called upon, and how nobly year after year they laid upon the missionary altar their pennies, until the pile exceeds, perhaps, half a million dollars a year! And we believe, if the Church will take the pains to let them know the objects of the Children's Day, they will not fail in this measure any more than in the other. So we commend to the thoughtful attention of the Conference the Board of Education and their Children's Day; and let the children know that other children are so taking interest in this great work that collections to this cause were sent in last year from almost one hundred Annual and Mission Conferences; that already, during only eight years of action, the Board has aided over nine hundred students, attending not less than seventy three different institutions of the Church; twenty-three missionaries to-day in foreign fields, and one hundred and fifty-eight ministers in fifty-seven Annual Conferences were aided by it to acquire an education. And this is but a mere beginning of what the Church will accomplish in this line when the children of the Church become acquainted with the work and its needs. Therefore, we ask of the members of this Conference, spread the knowledge among our people, and be sure and observe Children's Day.

Our beloved presiding Bishop, as President of the Board of Education, in printed circulars sent to this Conference, draws especial attention to the cause of education as the chief object of the contributions of the Church in the Centenary offerings of 1884, and requests, "that measures be taken to inform our people every-where of the opportunity to do good by augmenting the funds of this Board, and that motives be set before them to co-operate liberally for that object during the coming Centenary celebration." Therefore your committee presents the following preamble and resolution:

Resolution regarding the Centenary Celebration of 1884.

Whereas, There is a growing interest throughout the Church in the proposed celebration of the one hundredth year of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and it does seem fitting that some perma-

nent monument should be built by the Church to commemorate that event; and that in the judgment of this Conference no monument can be so appropriate as a fund that will afford the opportunity to youth, generation after generation, to acquire a Christian education and to become heralds of the cross and teachers of the people; therefore be it

Resolved, That we will lay before our people the claims of the Board of Education to their liberality, and will endeavor to interest them in Children's Day.

Philadelphia.

The Board of Education at New York has received an increased share of attention from our churches, and their contributions to the Children's Fund have been larger and more general than heretofore. We recommend that Children's Day be observed by all our Sunday-schools, and that the regular Conference collection for our Education Society be taken in the congregations at the morning services on that day, and that the collection for the Children's Fund be taken in the Sunday-school in the afternoon.

Central Pennsylvania.

Education.

The Committee on Education understand their duty to consist in taking a general view of the great interest submitted to them, as it now exists in the Methodist Episcopal Church, together with such special notice as may seem to be appropriate of institutions in which we are particularly interested.

The first part of this duty directs our attention to the Board of Education, now fully organized. This important agency is destined to take its equal place by the side of the Board of Church Extension and the Parent Missionary Society. Its purview extends to all our schools of learning, whether at home or in foreign fields. Its benefactions are intended, as far as possible, to cover this unbounded field.

The invested fund of the Board, the interest of which alone is subject to appropriation, and exclusively in the form of loans, was founded on the returns of the Sunday-school collections at the general Centenary of Methodism in 1866. Its annual increase depends on the repayment of loans, on educational collections, on legacies, and on the proceeds of Children's Day. It is in the latter form that this Conference contributes directly to this fund. The invested fund of the Board has reached the sum of $115,000. The amount distributed last year was over $11,000, assisting 250 youths of both sexes, in the expense of their education.

The Children's Day has become a very popular movement, and, wisely directed, may attain to permanence and great usefulness. The committee would suggest the importance of keeping the expense of these occasions within very moderate limits. They would also call attention to the fact that excellent programmes will be gratuitously furnished at New York.

WYOMING.

Resolved, That we recommend the observance of the second Sunday in June as Children's Day, by special services for the Sunday-school, and a collection for the Children's Fund.

NEW JERSEY.

General Education Board.

Resolved, 1. That the growing development and organization of our general educational work, under the auspices of our connectional Board of Education, is a cause of encouragement and rejoicing to all true friends of the Church.

2. That we are highly gratified at the fact that about one hundred Annual and Mission Conferences have given their practical approval of the object of the Board by contributing to its Fund.

3. That we highly commend the efforts of the Board to diffuse information among our churches respecting the origin and object of Children's Day, and that we are specially pleased with the proposition to send out printed programmes for Children's Day with the view to promote uniformity in its observance.

4. That we regard Children's Day as one of the most potent means of advancing the cause of education, and if the pastors will properly observe the day and give their people information as to its origin and the object of the money contributed, they will contribute largly and cheerfully to this fund, and we earnestly urge upon the brethren the observance of the day this Conference year according to the disciplinary plan.

NEWARK.

The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1868, has been an efficient agency in promoting the cause of Education. Its Corresponding Secretary, Rev. D. P. Kidder, D.D., by his large experience in educational matters, his zeal for the cause, and his ceaseless activity, has contributed largely to the success of this society. During the year ending November 14, 1882, its receipts amounted to $18,026 56, exceeding, by $1,755 74, the total of the eight years prior to 1881. We concur with Dr. Kidder in commending the observance of Children's Day in all our churches, and the taking on that day of collections for the cause of education; and recommend the "order of exercises" for Children's Day edited by the Corresponding Secretary.

NEW YORK.

Education.

The educational interests of the Methodist Episcopal Church continue to hold their rightful place in the thought and care of the people, and the number interested in the higher education of the youth is constantly increasing.

The Board of Education continues to be represented with increasing

efficiency by the experienced Corresponding Secretary. The past year has witnessed great advance in the resources and work of this Board. Most of the Conferences are now contributing to its funds. The past year Children's Day was celebrated and collections taken for the educational fund by eighty charges in this Conference. We would recommend our churches to adopt for their use at the coming celebration of Children's Day the programme provided by the Board of Education. During the eight years of its existence the Board has aided over nine hundred students, and while many of these are now in the different institutions of the Church, twenty-three have gone out into foreign mission fields, and one hundred and fifty-eight have entered the itinerancy in fifty-seven Annual Conferences. We will try to make advance in this noble work the coming year.

New York.

Centenary.

Your Committee on the Celebration of the Centenary of 1884 respectfully report as follows:

We think it must be apparent to all our people that the celebration of the Centenary Year of 1866 was attended by results of vast importance to Methodism. Not only did she then, for the first time, come into the consciousness of her power and responsibility as one of the greatest religious factors in the land, but in the formation of the Children's Fund for Education, amounting to over $56,000, a beginning was made toward producing a connectional interest capable of indefinite expansion, and of almost unequaled usefulness; and the contribution of between seven and eight million dollars, applied to the payment of Church debts, to the building of new churches, and to the endowment of educational institutions, was such an act of thanksgiving as surprised the whole country, and greatly augmented the power of Methodism throughout the land.

Resolved, That careful arrangements be made in all our charges for observing Children's Day in 1884, for the purpose of securing as liberal contributions possible to the Children's Fund for education. Every Sunday-school scholar in the Church can be interested in the cause.

New York East.

Education.

The Methodist Episcopal Church is unalterably pledged to the cause of Christian education. Our fathers organized great movements and founded great institutions, baptized them with their prayers and tears, perfumed them with their sacrifices, and left them to us, their most precious legacy. We can do no better work for the Church, present and future, than to encourage and sustain them. The standard of Christian scholarship is every year advancing. If we would maintain our rank among the great Protestant denominations we must keep step with our age.

Our institutions are equal to the best; they have passed beyond the

period of trial and uncertainty, and are established facts in our history and potent factors in our work. We can point to their record, and to their present status and work with pardonable pride.

The Board of Education has disbursed over $74,000. It helps to fill the ranks of our missionaries, ministers, and teachers, encourages many poor students who would, without its aid, falter and perhaps fail, and makes more practical and valuable the work of our Sunday-schools. The Church cannot contribute too liberally for the furthering of its plans. Let us urge our people to contribute, and to send their children to our seminaries and colleges, and thus insure for our Church a continued and increasingly devout and cultured constituency.

Northern New York.

Board of Education.

The object of this organization is to assist young men and young women to get an education by the loan of money.

We are pleased to learn, through circulars and reports sent us by Dr. Kidder, the Secretary, that the Board is doing a good work. Seventy-four thousand dollars have been disbursed since its organization, and 900 students, in various colleges and seminaries, have thus been aided in securing an education.

"We recommend that the second Sunday in June be observed as Children's Day, and that, whenever practicable, a collection be taken in the Sunday-school in aid of the Sunday-school Fund of the Board of Education."

Troy.

The Board of Education

Make encouraging progress in promoting the connectional educational interests of our Church.

We recommend that the second Sunday in June in each year be observed in all our churches in behalf of education; that at the morning service on that day a sermon be preached on the subject, and a collection be taken for the Troy Conference Educational Society, and forwarded to J. W. Eaton, D.D.; that a second service also be held, giving special prominence to the Sunday-school, and at this meeting a collection be taken, according to Disciplinary provision, for the Board of Education.

Vermont.

There comes to the children of the Church a new and powerful stimulus toward seeking an education in the work of the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church. More than 1,500 children needing aid in obtaining an education have been assisted by loans from this Board.

As the money for this benevolent work is obtained chiefly by contributions from children themselves, at the anniversary exercises of Children's Day, we recommend the uniform observance of this day in all the churches of the Conference.

New Hampshire.

We rejoice in the progress made by the Board of Education under the vigorous and skillful management of Dr. Kidder. Its growth during the past year has been phenomenal, and its objects command our highest approval. Last year it aided 250 students of both sexes, disbursing more than $11,000 to sixty institutions.

We earnestly hope that every church will observe Children's Day as recommended in our Discipline, and that the pastors will give definite instructions to our people as to the intent and spirit of such observance.

New England.

Resolved, That we will observe the Children's Day as far as practicable in each of our churches, and take a collection in each of our Sunday-schools for the Children's Fund of the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church of New York.

New England Southern.

Board of Education.

The circular sent out by the Board of Education gives information of a grand advance along the line of this great connectional, educational interest. The collections from the churches have increased from a little over $9,000 reported last year, to more than $15,000.

Two marked benefits are apparent from the work of the Board.

It has directly aided in eight years of action more than 900 students, studying in seventy-three institutions of learning, while of necessity from the brief time this Board has been at work, most of its beneficiaries are still in their courses of study; yet twenty-three have gone to labor in foreign mission fields, and one hundred and fifty-eight have entered the itinerancy. The aid given is in no case sufficient to support the pupil. It is a helping hand, extending encouragement and assistance, which, with his own exertions, will enable him to rise.

The indirect benefits of this movement, though widely diffused, are, perhaps, even greater than the direct. It awakens and fosters an interest throughout the whole Church in a higher education. It is a lever lifting the standard of culture and intelligence in our Methodism to a higher plane. Like the prize offered in a race, it also awakens desire and hope in the minds of many to enter the course and press on to a higher sphere of usefulness.

We commend the observance of Children's Day in all our churches as both a beautiful and useful festival, and as affording a favorable opportunity to take a collection for the education of worthy and indigent Sunday-school scholars through the agency of the Board of Education.

Maine.

Board of Education.

The Board of Education, established by the General Conference, sends us an encouraging and significant report. During the eight years of its

activity it has aided by loans more than nine hundred students, of whom twenty-three have already gone out into missionary fields, and one hundred and fifty-eight have entered the itinerant ministry, while a large proportion are still in the school. As yet, only one fourth of the churches have taken the Children's Day collection, yet $15,000 were contributed by these in 1882 for the Children's Fund. How grand results will follow when every charge in the Methodist Episcopal Church shall fall into line.

This Board asks us to take some action with reference to our Centenary of 1884—the Centenary of the organization of our Church. The Bishops recommend that "the chief object of our connectional offering be the cause of Education." They specify: 1st, the Board of Education; 2d, the Freedmen's Aid Society; 3d, Theological Schools; 4th, such Seminaries, Colleges, and Universities as shall be selected by the several Annual Conferences.

In compliance with the request of the Board of Education and the advice of the Bishops, your Committee recommend the appointment of a Conference Centenary Committee, to devise and put into execution such plans as they may deem wise for the observance of the Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

East Maine.

The Board of Education.

The influence of this Board is felt in all parts of our land. From east, west, north, and south come the echoes of "Children's Day." With these come the funds for the carrying on the great work of the Board. The late Bishop E. O. Haven, in speaking of the importance of the work done by this Board, says: "Few that are not connected with our higher schools can have any adequate idea of the demand for assistance, or of the great good that can be effected by a little timely aid to needy young men and women who seem to be influenced by the purest motives to seek an education. The most of them are destitute of money, and if they are compelled to earn enough to meet their expenses while attending school, will consume from ten to fifteen years in the work, and then find it most unsatisfactorily done. One hundred dollars a year (and often very much smaller sums) loaned to them from two to eight years will enable them, with much self-denial and hard labor, to prepare for their life-work."

Yet, great as is the work of the Board, frequent as are the demands, and with the stirring report of your committee of last year urging us on to action, only thirteen of the charges in East Maine responded to the call, or heeded the last year's report. This, to be sure, is a large advance over the year before; but, upon *every* charge in our Conference, one day in every year should be faithfully observed as Children's Day. We reiterate the resolve of last year: "That the Conference urgently request every pastor to take a collection for the Children's Fund, which shall be forwarded directly to the treasury of the Parent Board of Education. Es-

pecially do we urge this on account of the near approach of 'Our Centenary of 1884.' We must be getting into line for the great movements of that year."

CHILDREN'S DAY, 1883.

THE PLAN.

As was announced in the April number of the MANUAL, and much earlier in the weekly papers of the Church, a new departure was planned the present year in hope of promoting the greater and more general success of the Children's Day observance. In two essential features the plan was new, and was, consequently, proposed to the Church with some diffidence. Those features were indicated in a circular to pastors and Sunday-school superintendents in the following paragraphs which deserve perpetuation as historical memoranda:

The great *desideratum* now is universal co-operation on the simple plan first proposed by the Church, and already worked out on a scale so broad as to prove its universal adaptation. To facilitate such co-operation a measure of great importance, and involving no little expense, is proposed the present year. It is no less than that of offering printed programmes of Children's Day Services to all charges that may properly apply for them. It is known that large numbers of churches have hitherto hesitated to undertake the Children's Day observance from not knowing exactly how to proceed, or from not having at hand conveniences for properly carrying out the design. Besides, the best-meant efforts have sometimes failed for lack of suitable experience.

The time seems now to have come when it is possible to place our smallest and remotest charges on a plane of equality with those of the most favored localities, by giving all alike the benefits of accumulated experience, and of the highest advantages that can be commanded at the head-quarters of the Board of Education. Experience has not only proved that high and specific aims are important, but also that a great advantage is attainable by blending a considerable degree of *uniformity* with the *simultaneousness* of the Children's Day observance. Hence a programme has been prepared that is believed to be superior to any that has preceded it, and at the same time well adapted to the great majority of Sunday-schools. While its use is in no sense obligatory, it is, nevertheless, recommended, subject to such variations as may in any place be thought advisable. Of course, we could not think of sending it out gratuitously, except in the expectation that its cost to the Board will be refunded by larger collections, at least in proportion to the reduction of expenses in the several schools. Nor could we send out any more than specimen copies until assured that they are wanted for actual use.

All are welcome to examine the specimen herewith sent, and then to use or not, as they may on the whole deem best. If, however, they desire to use them on the conditions suggested, PROMPT ORDERS in the form furnished are ESSENTIAL. Those orders can only be honored at New York, where they should arrive (if possible) during the month of April. They can then be filled so as to reach every part of the United States before the 20th of May, when preparations for their proper use should every-where begin.

Our general circular of information this year takes the form of a LETTER TO THE CHILDREN and youth of the Church, a specimen of which is herewith sent for your examination.

There are three ways in which it can be used: 1. By the pastor or superintendent reading it to the Sunday-school, with remarks and explanations. 2. By having the teachers read it in the several classes. 3. By presenting copies to the scholars to be taken home and read by themselves and their friends, and afterward held as keepsakes. We give you leave to choose between these modes, and to order accordingly. In case the latter is judged best, the presentation ought to be preceded by suitable explanations, based on the facts stated in this leaflet and the Report on Children's Day.

It was foreseen that the above offers involved an amount of labor and expense only limited by the extent to which they should be accepted, but it was believed possible for the results to justify the undertaking, and the venture was made.

Accordingly, between nine and ten thousand circular envelopes were sent out to pastors, each one containing eight distinct products of the press, and severally prepared for a special and important object involved in the common design of promoting the best results of the coming Children's Day.

The favor with which these circulars were received by those who gave to them prompt and thoughtful attention is indicated by the following notice published in the "North-western Christian Advocate," from the pen of a distinguished pastor:

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON CHILDREN'S DAY.

These two, the Board of Education and its foster-child, the Children's Day, are constantly growing in favor. The documents sent us from this source this year remind us of the quaint title of one of good Brother Donkersley's books, "The Full Envelope." What with the sample of "Fadeless Flowers," the programme for Children's Day by Rev. D. J. Holmes, the dainty and beautiful Red Letter for the children, with the autograph signatures of the President and Secretary, Bishop Simpson and Dr. Kidder, attached, the reminder of "Our Centenary of 1884," the

circular of the Board to the pastors and Sunday-school superintendents, and the full and encouraging report on Children's Day, we have a "full envelope" of precious and interesting matter; the whole also a model of neatness and elegance, just what might be expected from the well-known taste of the Corresponding Secretary.

One of the most gratifying of recent facts is the enthusiasm with which this "new movement of the Church and her children" is being entered into. What more worthy cause for the children of our Sunday-schools to contribute their mites to help forward than that of Christian education? The picture at the head of the Children's Letter thrills one with the thought of the inspiring fact which lies behind it. That youthful standard-bearer grasping the staff with the legend, "Christian Education," on his banner, may well seem proud of his position with such an army at his back, marching along from Maine on the north-east, down through the New England States, passing westward to Lake Erie, thence southward through the Atlantic States; then turning north and passing west of the Alleghanies, through Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan, to the upper lakes; then passing down through Indiana, and up through Illinois and Wisconsin to Minnesota; thence from the borders of the British possessions on the north again moving southward, west of the Mississippi River, through Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas, to Texas; then bearing off through New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Oregon, to Washington Territory. An army of children, nearly two millions strong, marching "throughout this vast circuit of States and Territories," to the music of Christian education, is certainly a sight to be proud of and to be thankful for. This year may their "tramp, tramp," be heard like the sound of many waters!

EMBARRASSMENTS AND EXECUTION OF THE PLAN.

The timely distribution of the proposed helps throughout all the United States and Territories was attended with two embarrassments quite beyond the control of our office. The first was the failure of some of the circulars to reach the persons for whom they were designed. Against this we endeavored to guard by the following paragraph in our published plan:

> Any presiding elder, pastor, or Sunday-school superintendent not receiving the documents proposed above by the 16th of April, should apply for them without delay.

Had this request been in all instances complied with, and had all who ultimately applied for the Orders of Service and the Letters to the children done so within the time proposed, we might now be enabled to speak of the perfect success of the plan.

But it was at this point that our second serious embarrassment developed itself, viz., delay on the part of many of our friends. Having at the beginning printed 100,000 copies of the Services and Letters, we did not think it prudent to incur the expense of printing more except as orders indicated that they would be wanted. Several equal editions, however, were called for, until at length when, according to our expectation the demand would cease, it became greater and more urgent than ever. Without further details suffice it to say, that by extraordinary exertion *all orders were filled* save a few that came obviously too late. In many cases the bad effect of delay in ordering was measurably avoided by a postponement of the exercises one or two weeks.

We have explained the above embarrassments, not to complain of what we feel sure was unintentional, and perhaps in some cases unavoidable, delay, but rather as a reason for prompt attention and timely action in reference to such circulars as we may send out hereafter.

While this subject is still fresh, we take this occasion to announce that, Providence permitting, a similar plan will be pursued next year, and to request that our friends everywhere will contribute to its greatest success by early applications for the extraordinary helps that will be furnished for 1884. Let it be remembered that next year we shall celebrate the Centenary of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and that our Children's Day observance in June is appointed to be the LEADING MOVEMENT of a series of efforts that are expected to culminate in December in the grandest of results.

THE DAY.

In large sections of the country the 10th of June, 1883, was all that a bright summer Sunday could be expected to be. In other sections heavy and protracted rains greatly interfered with attendance upon the services and with the full enjoyment and anticipated results of the day. In some cases advantages were gained by postponement after the day arrived. In others even the following Sunday proved rainy. In all such matters human hopes and endeavors must be subject to the disposal

of an overruling Providence which we must trust as governing all things for the best. On the whole, we may believe that no better day than the second Sunday in June could have been fixed upon for a general observance, and we may safely accept the law of averages by which every place will, in the course of years, have its share of sunny Sabbaths on the appointed time.

SPECIMEN REPORTS.

The results of Children's Day in any given year are so manifold that it is impossible to indicate in words more than certain leading features of them. The principal of these are, (1) Pecuniary returns for educational purposes. (2) Moral, educational, and spiritual influences upon those participating. No human mind can over-estimate the value of either in their promise of good to the Church and the world. To the first, primary attention has usually been given, and we are pleased to say that the pecuniary returns have come in this year with unusual promptness. But they can only be properly exhibited when received from all the charges and carefully classified by Conferences and districts. This not only requires time, but in view of our desire to give every charge throughout our vast field an opportunity to secure its appropriate credit, we have adopted the practice of keeping our accounts open till the close of the calendar year. At that period our full report will be put in printer's hands, so that funds not then sent in cannot be credited till the next year thereafter. It is therefore specially requested that all the collections of this year be reported within the year, and that all moneys designed for the Children's Fund or General Educational Fund be sent to this Board either directly or through the Book Agents of the Church. Owing to the present imperfect mode of reporting educational moneys at Conferences, it has often happened that collections really designed for the Children's Fund have found some other destination, and consequently could not be credited in our published reports. We are often written to in regard to supposed neglects on our part, when the real fault consisted in not sending the money to this office, where, had it been received, it would have been duly acknowledged.

From returns already in hand, it is certain that our Report on Children's Day, to be published in January, 1884, will be more complete and more creditable to the Church than any that has preceded it. We cannot conceal a laudable anxiety to see every pastoral charge in the Church creditably represented in it. That will be done to the full extent to which the several charges shall send us an offering to either of the educational funds. Even Churches and Sunday-schools that failed to take the Children's Day collection in the usual way, may yet be represented in the list, if their officers or individuals will, in their name, send in an offering as suggested.

Meantime, we avail ourselves of the present opportunity of making a condensed panoramic exhibit of such testimonies as have been sent to us concerning the second class of influences alluded to above.

As heretofore they are compressed into the briefest compass, and limited to brief statements of FACTS, INFLUENCES, and occasionally METHODS, omitting details of description. In many local and Church papers full and interesting accounts of decorations and peculiar exercises are given, which need not be repeated. It may be assumed that the material arrangements were generally in a high degree pleasing and well worthy of the educational and spiritual results they were designed to promote.

Readers will please note the geographical order in which the following extracts are arranged, and the vast spaces through which they sweep across the full breadth and vast interior of the American continent, as well as from the northern to the southern extremes of our great country. Hereafter we shall have some interesting reports from our foreign mission fields, showing that our Children's Day observance is not limited to our own continent, but extending around the world:

AUGUSTA, ME.

It grows better and better! I have encouraged and co-operated with my people in the observance of "Children's Day" for several years, but never enjoyed the little folks' festival so much as yesterday. The weather was threatening, yet so great was the interest awakened the people *would* come, and the church was full. The floral decorations were superb, as was also the singing by the Sunday-school. "Fadeless Flowers" was pronounced a most delightful exercise. C. W. BRADLEE.

FAIRFIELD, ME.

Our Children's Day was a success, notwithstanding the heavy storm.

J. ALBERT COREY, Pastor.

BIDDEFORD, ME.

We had a very pleasant time on Children's Day. House packed all day. Yours truly, E. T. ADAMS.

GUILFORD, ME.

Please accept the within $6, and give us due credit for the same. Send us Report of Board of Education on Children's Day for 1883 as soon as published, with copy of the Order of Service for '84. Our children will look for it. This is their first observance of Children's Day. They are filled with delight over it. Your Letter to the children formed part of the service. E. SKINNER.

NEWPORT, ME.

The wind and storm kept quite a number from our "Children's Services" yesterday, but they were a grand success. More interest was taken in the day than ever before.

The "Fadeless Flowers," sent us by the Board of Education, proved a fine service, and was a great help to us. J. H. W. WHARFF.

NEWPORT, N. H.

Your programme for Children's Day for 1883 was very beautiful and appropriate. Our school entered into it with great interest. Its presentation instructed and impressed the large audience in attendance. Hope you will give us as good a one next year. The cause you represent grows in favor with our people. J. W. ADAMS.

ANTRIM, N. H.

Had a grand time. Success all along the line. N. C. ALGER.

BROOKLINE, N. H.

We had a house full of people. All were interested, and I trust pleased and profited. We took the collection as you gave instructions, and to our gratification the superintendent announced as the total the sum of $6 02. Last year the collection sent you was $1 50. I send you this year just four times as much. Our Sunday-school numbers some fifty members. JOHN H. HILLMAN.

PITTSFORD, VT.

The Pittsford M. E. Church and Sunday-school observed Children's Day on the day appointed. In the morning the pastor preached to the children, and in the evening the exercises were by the school. We had a grand time, and one long to be remembered.

A. O. SPOOR, Pastor.

WESTON, VT.

The day had not been previously observed here, and it "took" wonderfully. We used the printed programme, supplementing it with some fine recitations. Of course we had a crowd, but we will have a greater one next year.

W. R. DAVENPORT.

WOLLASTON, MASS.

Considering that our school only numbers about thirty, you will accept our little contribution of $4 25 for Children's Day as all that could be expected.

The exercise was well accepted. The spiritual interest good. The children were requested to inform the pastor how they had earned their money for the offering. This brought to light some matters of interest as to methods and means adopted by children for making money.

L. D. YOUNKIN.

ROCKLAND, MASS.

We had a delightful service. We thank you for the help you so kindly gave us.

W. E. KUGLER.

EASTHAM, MASS.

The Order of Service gave the best of satisfaction, and the entire programme was a great success. We will ever hereafter desire to observe Children's Day.

S. F. HARRIMAN.

WINDSOR, CONN.

We used the Board of Education programme for Children's Day, and found it interesting and satisfactory. As a result I inclose you my check, covering amount of our collection, which you will see is a considerable increase over last year's. I trust that this year the fund may be increased according to the desires and deservings of the Board.

DAVID G. DOWNEY.

SIMSBURY, CONN.

Children's Day with us was a grand success. A perfect day; the "Fadeless Flowers" exercise, with some additions; a magnificent floral display; the baptism of ten infants and young children; a crowded church; and a collection double that of last year, made the occasion one of interest and joy.

H. M. LIVINGSTON.

WATERTOWN, CONN.

We used your Children's Day exercise with good effect. We had a very interesting and profitable occasion. Good thing.

Rev. G. B. DUSINBERRE.

KATONAH, N. Y.

I have great pleasure in inclosing to you check for $21 52, the amount of our collection on Children's Day. It represents an advance of more

than 100 per cent. over the collection of last year. Children's Day has evidently taken firm hold of the affections of this community, as of the Church at large. No better means could be devised for bringing the educational necessities of our country to the attention of the people. Methodism, though naturally intolerant of stated liturgies, takes very kindly to an occasional one, like "Fadeless Flowers." I heartily congratulate you on your success. May you live to see a stable income of a million dollars annually flowing into your treasury! Yours for Christ and the conversion of the world,

R. WHEATLEY.

PORT EWEN, ULSTER CO., N. Y.

You will be glad to hear of what I may justly consider a grand success on our Children's Day. It has never before been observed in this place, and from peculiar circumstances (here) we had less than two weeks for preparation. I found "Fadeless Flowers" an excellent arrangement. Many thanks for them.

Our floral decorations consisted of Bible emblems worked up in flowers, one design being presented by each class, with an appropriate Scripture quotation by the one presenting, and a brief and pointed reply by the pastor.

A collection was then taken from the audience, and, as the result, I am glad to inclose you a check for $10. And this is large considering our circumstances and the suddenness with which the day was brought before the people. The church was filled to the doors, and about fifty were outside, who also contributed to the collection.

C. A. HOWELLS.

WALDEN, N. Y.

Our Children's Day was a grand day throughout. We had an overflowing church all day, with intense interest. I preached to parents in the morning, and administered baptism to "little ones."

There were eleven beautiful children consecrated to the Lord in the presence of the people. It was a solemn and very impressive service. Our evening service was of more than ordinary interest. The children had been long and patiently drilled by Mrs. Hoyt, and they did their parts nicely. Our class collections were taken, and then a public collection from the great unorganized class, and the amount was highly satisfactory, as the inclosed check for $50 25 will demonstrate.

I then addressed the children for about twenty or twenty-five minutes, and the service was closed with great enthusiasm for the cause of Christian education.

J. C. HOYT.

NARROWSBURG, N. Y.

This charge paid last year $1 for education. Children's Day was observed, but no collection taken. I should hardly account that as an observance of the day.

We observed it yesterday, using the Order of Service you sent us. I had placed a copy of the "Red Letter" in the hand of each member of

the school, and yesterday had one of our boys read the letter to the congregation as the introductory exercise. *We had a splendid time*, and I think, every thing considered, a *day of victory*. The children's offering in the morning was about $9, and I took in the collection for the General Fund besides, $5 83, making a total of nearly fifteen dollars against *one* last year. I gave an address on the subject of Christian Education in the evening, at which a large number of the children were present, and I trust seed was sown that will bear fruit in the near future to the glory of God.

Judging from the interest with which our children have made this their first offering to the Children's Fund, I think we may confidently anticipate an increase next year. S. W. SPENCER.

PINE HILL, N. Y.

I came to this charge in April. They had never observed Children's Day, but were willing to try. I spent what time I could in drilling them. We have three Sunday-schools. One held their service Sunday morning, another in the evening, and the third the Sunday following. It was a grand success at each place. Churches beautifully decorated with plants, flowers, and mottoes. The congregations overflowed the churches, children and parents were alike delighted. Collections, $15 50, making a good showing for a little charge up in the wildest, but most picturesque, section of the Catskills.

You may always expect a collection from here.

P. N. CHASE, Pastor.

TROY CONFERENCE, HOOSICK FALLS, N. Y.

We had a grand day yesterday. The children were all highly interested, and gave us a fine entertainment in the evening by way of a concert. We send you, as the first gift of this Sabbath-school to the "Children's Fund," $19 50; this, with the $19 raised for our Conference Education Society in the morning, makes this Children's Day the best for educational interests the church has ever known, Rev. E. P. STEVENS.

KELSEVILLE, N. Y.

We observed Children's Day last Sabbath in the manner contemplated in the Discipline. We endeavored to impress upon the children the importance of our educational work, and that the day was designed to enlist them in this great Christian enterprise. All were highly pleased.

A. D. HEAXT.

SAND LAKE, N. Y.

The Children's Day exercises were highly appreciated, and the congregations crowded our church to its utmost capacity. The wisdom of the General Conference is seen in setting apart one day especially for the *children* each year. JOEL MARTIN.

TROY CONFERENCE, HAGAMAN'S MILLS, N. Y.

Within is a check for eight dollars. We used your Children's Day Service, which was *very satisfactory*. The people were much pleased.

It was the *first* Children's Day service that was ever observed in this village. JAMES B. WOOD.

BLACK RIVER, N. N. Y. CONFERENCE.

Inclosed find post-office order for $9, result of Children's Day collection. Programme you furnished gave excellent satisfaction.

H. C. ABBOTT.

ST. REGIS FALLS, N. N. Y. CONFERENCE.

I inclose you $4, from a new appointment, where we have no Church organization, and our Sunday-school only four weeks old when it gave this collection.

If increase of age gives increase of fruits, I hope we may yet hear better things of this infant.

I am preaching in a school-house to a congregation gathered out of a large gang saw-mill company; have enrolled 82 scholars in six weeks upon our Sunday-school roll, and have purchased 75 Berean Leaves, 20 Child's Picture Lesson Papers, 50 Sunday-School Advocates, and the new 50-Volume Library, and taken the *first* Children's Day collection, and all this in the heart of the Adirondacks.

So more and more the Gospel spreads and grows into the forests as well as cultivated fields. Remember and pray for this infant of days.

W. RILEY HELMS.

BURDETT, N. Y.

I like your Children's Day programme above other specimens sent me, because yours touches the educational work of the Church and hits the mark, while others seem to be a discussion about flowers.

I observe Children's Day every year, and preach on Christian education, and emphasize its importance. W. W. HUNT.

MOTTVILLE, N. Y.

Children's Day was a grand success with us. Your order of service was used in the public congregations, and was very helpful.

GEORGE E. HUTCHINGS.

CLYDE, N. Y.

Inclosed find our Children's Day collection of $20, an increase of $5 over last year.

I preached to the children in the morning, and we had a Sunday-school concert exercise in the evening, using the programme you so kindly provided. We had a glorious time. I distributed the tracts and letters to children the Sunday previous. O. A. HOUGHTON.

PHELPS, N. Y.

Gave the whole day to the children and youth, and received from them a collection of $10, which you will find inclosed. Had a grand time.

WILLIAM A. ELY.

YOUNGSTOWN, N. Y.

The Children's Day was a success here. When I was sent here last fall the Sunday-school was very small—about twenty-five scholars, now fifty. Porter Center school is also fifty. Special efforts were made here to train the children in the service, which all enjoyed.

The service you had prepared was *very fine*, and I hope you will be as successful hereafter in procuring as cheering music. Its length and variety are good. C. A. WOODWORTH.

MAYVILLE, CHAUTAUQUA CO., ERIE CONFERENCE.

I herewith send you our Children's Day collection. The day was a delight to all. The man who suggested it deserves honor. Thanks for your excellent programme. M. SMITH.

CONNEAUTVILLE, PA., ERIE CONFERENCE.

I am happy to inform you that our Children's Day was a success—much more interest and enthusiasm manifested than at previous observances of this day in our church. We followed the printed "Order of Service" you sent to us. Church beautifully decorated; singing inspiring; collection $2 in advance of last year. W. W PAINTER.

PETROLIA AND MARTINSBURG, PA.

We have two good schools. We worked the matter up in good shape. Put in the full day, morning, afternoon, and evening, taking in Petrolia $9 01, and in Martinsburg $7 75, making a total of $16 76. This is the first Children's Day ever observed in this place, and the people were delighted and children all happy. "Fadeless Flowers" were highly appreciated by all. W. M. TAYLOR.

JAMESTOWN, MERCER CO., PA.

We observed Children's Day this year on this charge with great pleasure, interest, and profit to old and young. The regular annual observance of Children's Day is a settled question with me. It *pays* to observe it. Children's Day collection this year is more than double last year's.

J. M. CROUCH.

BERLIN, PA.

Children's Day passed off very pleasantly and successfully. More than double the average congregations were present. Collections sixty per cent. in advance of last year. ALBERT FREEMAN.

MOUNTAIN TOP, PA.

Please find inclosed check for $9 32, the result of Children's Day service. We had a glorious time. The Service you furnished proved to be specially good, and filled just the right place and time.

C. D. CLARK.

STRASBURG, PA.

Inclosed please find check for $6, collection for Educational Fund. The order of service was well received. The music was grand, especially "Floral Mission Hymn." J. W. LYTLE, Chorister.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

We have been holding Children's Day for a number of years, and, while we do not desire to boast, we think *we* have as grand a time as it is possible for any school to have. We make our programmes and select our own matter for months ahead, and use every thing we can get that is appropriate and in harmony with the day, the place, and the occasion. We have three services: morning service, a sermon to the children, afternoon and evening service by the children and young people; and we turn away every year hundreds from each service. H. T. AMES.

TYRONE, PA.

Inclosed find postal-order for $21 89 for Children's Fund. We had a grand day. It is one that pays every way. Quite a lengthy article appeared in one of the town papers, and very complimentary.

J. S. M'MURRAY.

FREDONIA, PA.

This is the first time Children's Day services have been held in this place. Our people are very much pleased with the idea, and will do better in the collection next time. W. H. MOSSMAN.

CATASAUQUA, PA.

Children's Day with us was a decided success, I think, all will say. Personally I never before enjoyed the day so much. And this was largely due to the most excellent programme you had prepared for us. It was sensible, containing meat as well as milk. There was plenty of room for sentiment to be introduced by skillful directors. I hope you will prepare such a programme every year to take the place of the wishy-washy programmes heretofore so popular. We want exercises which are at once reverent, instructive, to the point, and attractive.

Your programme helped me greatly to make the day brimful of matters relating to education. I let the programme bolster every thing I said, and it seemed to have been predestinated to help about every thing one could say in two sermons and an address. Our last Children's Day will not soon be forgotten. S. OLIN GARRISON.

GREEN VILLAGE, N. J.

As this charge pays but $400 salary, you could hardly look for $17 from us, ($14 more than last year.) But if pastors *begin in time—begin right—* and *keep up interest to the close*, our collection for education *can* be larger.

May our little tribute help some poor boy or girl to save souls for our dear Saviour, and may God be pleased to bless both the money and the person helped. We used part of the "Children's Service" to great profit. God bless the cause! A. M. VIVEN.

The Hillsdale and Pearl River Sunday-schools, of Newark Conference, observed June 10, "Children's Day," in accordance with the Discipline of our Church, pleasantly and profitably. We used the Orders of Service sent us by the Board. We liked them very much, and the children were pleased. Short but appropriate speeches were interspersed with the Service Hymns. A brief and clear statement of facts for the people was made by the pastor, and then the collection was taken—nearly forty per cent. in advance of last year.

J. A. CRAIG.

LONG BRANCH, N. J.

I do not think that many Sunday-schools of the New Jersey Conference, of not more than 160 scholars, will do better than we have done this year, though I could heartily wish they have for a cause so excellent, ($24 10.)

S. F. WHEELER.

CAMDEN, N. J.

Inclosed please find $21 53, the amount of our collection this afternoon for the "Children's Educational Fund." We prize Children's Day, and the opportunity offered to contribute to this fund. May the aggregate reach beyond your expectations, and continue to increase *rapidly* as the years roll on.

WALTER M. PATTON.

ASBURY CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DEL.

Inclosed find check for Children's Day collection, $22. Many will rise up and call you blessed for your devotion to this cause, and for making provision for their education when they could not help themselves.

The Lord is blessing you in this work, and I pray that the good work may go on until the $1,000,000 is realized, yea, and more.

W. L. S. MURRAY.

NEW CASTLE, DEL.

Our Children's Day was a time of great joy to both old and young. We used the Service prepared by the Board, and had the Red Letter read and one hundred distributed. We gave the entire day to the children. I send you $10.

N. M. BROWNE.

DOVER, DEL.

On Saturday the special committee appointed for decorating were busy afternoon and evening, and fixed things beautifully. At 10:10 A.M. we met in the lecture-room, formed into classes, and at 10:30 marched in a body up to the auditorium. We then used the Service prepared by the Board of Education, interspersing two short speeches and a *basket collection* for friends *not members* of our school. At 2 P.M. we had a Service of Song, in which the infant-school and Band of Hope sang some special songs, as well as full choruses by all present. Then we took up a collection class by class, the secretary calling the roll. At 3 P.M we had a baptismal service, and at 7:30 P.M. a short sermon.

So ended what is said to have been the most successful Children's Day celebration ever held in Dover.

VAUGHAN S. COLLINS.

SNOW HILL, MD.

The Children's Day has become a permanent feature of Snow Hill Methodism. Enthusiasm at glowing heat. Important as may be the collection, I believe it is really, after all, the secondary feature. Where it is properly managed the advantage accruing may not be estimated in dollars and cents—especially where there are other and competing schools that have no such institution. It must have been an inspiration.

J. H. WILLEY.

ROCKDALE, BALTIMORE CO., MD.

Inclosed find check for $20, our collection from the children. The day was pleasant and profitable. I am sure it will be a fixture in the work of Baltimore Circuit hereafter. Such congregations we seldom have as were present "Children's Day." L. L. BROWN.

MARTINSBURG, W. VA.

Find Children's Fund collection from First Methodist Episcopal Church, $15. Your order of service did us good service. The collection is nearly double that of a year ago. We LOVE the day more and more. Hurry the grand fund up to a million, that it may bless the world.

GEO. V. LEECH.

MARION, VA.

The Children's Day is a new thing here, and as such it was handled with a great deal of diffidence. Now it is over the old people can see through it. Had they seen it as plainly yesterday as they do to-day, $10 would have been my return, instead of $2. It has, however, awakened new ideas and zeal in my people, which will result in much good.

W. G. COLBY.

NORFOLK, VA.

Children's Day was beautifully and impressively celebrated at the Tabernacle in this city in accordance with the programme prepared for the occasion. The audience-room was filled, and the mingling of sweet music, a profuse display of beautiful flowers, and the bright and happy faces of the children, all conspired to make the occasion one of unalloyed pleasure. The exercises of the infant-class were very beautiful and touching, consisting of hymns and recitations. During the meeting each class sent up its offering for the Sunday-school Fund of the Board of Education, which promises in the near future to be productive of grand results. After the celebration the lovely flowers were sent to the almshouse, jail, and hospital, and no doubt awakened in the hearts of the recipients grateful feelings for the motives which prompted the act. W. ROGERS ISRAEL.

LEXINGTON, VA.

I take pleasure in writing to inform you of our grand success on Children's Day. The Order of Service for Children's Day was strictly observed, and proved to be the best that we have ever had. Quite a large number

of parents and children were out on that occasion and took part in the exercises of the day. A collection was taken up for the Children's Educational Fund, amounting to $10. We are still alive up here in the mountains, and the God of our fathers is with us.

L. DIGGS.

HARTFORD CITY, W. VA.

I herewith inclose you $7 50, the amount of our Children's Day collection. We think that we made a grand success, taking into consideration the poverty of our people. The major part of our people are *coal miners* and their families, and the male members have been out of employment for some time. Parents and children were all delighted with the service; and *we* do all feel better for having done our duty in this direction.

J. ENGLE.

WHEELING, W. VA.

I send you herewith draft on New York for $25 75, the amount of our Children's Day collection. By comparing this amount with that you received from our school last year you will find it eight and a half times as much; and may I express the hope that the same increase may prevail throughout the country, and give this fund $125,000. As soon as returns are in please send me the amount, as I am anxious to know the total. We had a pleasant and profitable day, using your Order of Service, with the addition of a memorial card beautifully trimmed and headed "Gone Before," calling attention to those of our number who had died since the last Children's Day.

W. A. WILSON.

SOMERSET, KY.

We held our first Children's Service yesterday, and though it rained nearly all day we had the house full of people morning and night. We divided the service: two pages in the morning and two at night. We secured $5 40 for this our first day, and enlisted the children for life in education. They wish it (Children's Day) could be observed every month.

H. W. BAILEY.

COVINGTON, KY.

I send you, with this, our Children's Day collection. We used the Service provided by Board of Education last evening. All pronounced it excellent. The entire day was given to the educational idea. The observance of Children's Day is a fixed fact in Shinkle Chapel.

S. G. POLLARD.

COVINGTON, KY.

The exercises were highly instructive as well as pleasing to all. Lasting impressions for good, we have every reason to hope, were made upon both children and parents.

W. S. LANKFORD.

SHELBYVILLE, KY.

Our observance of Children's Day was a success. Our Sunday-school is not large, the average attendance not more than 45; yet the combined

collections of the Sunday-school in the morning and of the Concert Service in the afternoon reached the sum of $8 50. This is very encouraging.

R. F. STEVENSON.

BOWLING GREEN, KY.

I take great pleasure in forwarding you $3, which is the result of our collection on Children's Day at this place. If we had been blessed with a fair day I know not what might have been our success in raising money; however, our school is small. But the day's work was a grand one with its exercises, and not only instructive to all our people, the old as well as the young, but it has created and inspired enthusiasm in the hearts and minds of all; and I hope and trust an undying love and regard for Children's Day in the future. This is the first time ever a real effort has been made at this point.

J. H. D. PAYNE.

GALLATIN, TENN.

Inclosed you will find an order for our little mite, hoping, like the little drops of water, it may help to fill the mighty ocean of want, especially in the South. Our collection would have been four or five times larger but for the fearful rains on the day set apart. Great preparations had been made to make it a success. As it was, we had to hold it at night, with a very small congregation.

W. S. BUTLER.

SUNBRIGHT, TENN.

I am fifty-six years old, yet I rode horseback over rough roads fifteen miles on Children's Day, and preached three times to the children, stopping at night in our county seat, (Wartburg.) I read your Red Letter to the children, while they listened very attentively. As sure as eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, so sure is it that if our preachers will only put forth a small effort on Children's Day the result will be grand.

A. B. WRIGHT.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

This year's collection with us is below our estimate, from the fact that it rained nearly all day. Our people here are interested in the work, but the collection this year, though above last, we hope will not be taken for the interest we have, or our appreciation, of the "Floral Service," for the above-named reasons. Every one thought it adapted to its object, in that it gave us some statistics worthy of careful study and remembering.

L. M. HAGOOD.

WIER, LUMPKIN CO., GA.

Being desirous of co-operating in the Children's Day observance of 1883 according to the Discipline, without the order of service, we have gone to work, we think with grand results for a small school which loves to engage in the noble enterprise of education. Inclosed you will please find $2 45 for the Board of Education. May the blessing of the Lord attend

the society. Hoping ever to co-operate, I remain your obedient servant. Please send me a report of Board of Education of Children's Day for 1883 as soon as prepared. J. J. DONOHOO.

MARION, S. C.

Children's Day at our Bethel Church was a *great day* for all concerned, parents as well as the children. We made it our regular "anniversary day." Preparations for more than a month were in progress in order to make it a day of success.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers, evergreens, garlands, and mottoes. Nearly sixty of the scholars, including fifteen young ladies, took part in the speaking. The most beautiful feature of the programme was the part the nearly forty little ones performed on the occasion.

Our efficient superintendent, J. H. Halloway, was most assiduous in his labors—with what aid the pastor could render him—in bringing up the school to perfect preparations for this day. We consider this one of the model schools in the South Carolina Conference. A. MIDDLETON.

GREENVILLE, S. C.

We had Children's Day Service last night. Crowded house and very interesting exercises. Collected $10. J. B. MIDDLETON.

GAINESVILLE, FLA.

Inclosed you will find post-office order for $10 76, amount collected Children's Day.

We carried out the plan of our Children's Day exercises, and it was a success indeed, and highly appreciated by parents, friends, and visitors. The exercises of that day have made a lasting impression upon the church and community.

The Red-Letter circulars were given to the children for keepsakes and future reference. Each child had one pinned on the left side as a badge. All were well pleased with them. L. E. CHESTNUT.

SCOTTSBOROUGH, ALA.

Last Sunday was a very rainy day, yet the children turned out largely. One hundred were present, and between seven and eight hundred adults. The collection is $4 35. It would have been greater but for the bad weather. We are determining to do better the next time. The documents received from the Board were very useful. B. I. STERLING.

BATESVILLE, MISS.

We had a nice time on Children's Day. We had only sixty-two pupils; the weather was unfavorable. But it is with much satisfaction that we send to you 40 cents, and are sorry that we could not send more. We will do better, we hope, next time. F. W. MELSON.

UNION LEAGUE CHAPEL, ABERDEEN, MISS.

We more than thank you for your helps. They enabled us to draw the attention of every body present. Those in attendance said they could not

recollect a better day's enjoyment, and I myself felt that if the Children's Day movement continues it will hasten the conversion of the world.

J. A. WIGHTMAN.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

The amount of our Children's Day collection this year is herewith inclosed. J. G. VAUGHAN.

STONY POINT, LA.

We had a delightful day in all respects; a good congregation in the morning, and in the evening every thing passed off with universal approval and hearty, even enthusiastic, satisfaction. Children's Day is evidently destined to be a great day in our Israel.

DENISON, TEXAS.

Children's Day is always an enjoyable occasion in this charge, but at no time has it equaled in this respect the present. The excellent service, "Fadeless Flowers," was well rendered, and highly appreciated by a large audience.

Hoping to hear an excellent report from the whole Church, and praying the Divine blessing on your labors, we are your fellow-servants in the Lord's vineyard, C. W. HARGITT, Pastor.

JOS. B. WILDE, Sup't.

FINDLAY, O.

I send you herewith $10, the amount of our Children's Day contribution. This is an increase of over one hundred per cent. for this charge. The people are pleased with the exercises, and say that next year will be much better in every way. W. A. YINGLING.

CLEVELAND, O.

Inclosed please find draft for $12 31, the amount of our Children's Day collection at Scoville Ave. M. E. Sunday-school, Cleveland, O.

We had a very enjoyable day, giving the school the entire day for their services. The printed programme was used in the morning, all taking part with enthusiasm. This was followed by baptismal service, ten children being baptized. The evening service consisted of various exercises by the children, which were highly interesting and pleasing to all. Our pastor (Dr. D. H. Muller) manifested great interest in the cause, and we are indebted to him for a great deal of our success. H. J. ANDREWS.

MT. UNION, O.

Had a fine time yesterday. Professors and students all interested. Collection double that of last year. B. E. EDGELL.

RAVENNA, O.

We had a delightful day; all, children and parents and their friends, were pleased. R. M. FRESHWATER.

BRISTOLVILLE, O.

You will find inclosed $12, our offering for Children's Day, 1883. We had a very interesting day. At this appointment they never before had observed the entire day. The children had been put off with the evening service. This year we gave them the whole day. Nothwithstanding the fact that during Sunday afternoon one of the heaviest rains of the season fell, and the evening was quite wet, yet our large church was crowded almost to its utmost capacity. Every body enjoyed the day very much, and want Children's Day to come again as soon as possible. We have, also, a mission school. The superintendent is an active, earnest Methodist, and hence Children's Day was observed there also, and the services were very interesting. Permit me to say, "Children's Day" in this section of the country will, before long, be one of the strongholds of our Methodism; it will be THE day of the whole year. The Akron District Conference met on Monday following Children's Day, and I noticed in the reports of pastors that nearly all reported a splendid day and good collections. Indeed, there seemed to be a sort of holy emulation among the brethren as to who could make the best report. I think this a good sign, for the children *are* interested, and when all our pastors get interested, the day will become one of interest and power to the Church, and profit (financially) to the Educational Fund. T. W. LANE.

GREENFIELD, O.

Thank you very much for the excellent Service for Children's Day. It was a grand day in our church. In the midst of rain the house was well filled. All took a deep interest in our floral day.

I send you $20 as our contribution to the $1,000,000. A. N. BEALE.

WINDHAM, O.

Children's Day was one of great interest. Our house was filled to overflowing. We used the Service you sent us. It was, indeed, beautiful, and called forth the approval of all who heard it. With this I send you our collection, $10 21. JOHN TRIBBY.

WILLIAMSPORT, O.

Children's Day was a grand success at all points on my charge. At two of the points it was the first time they ever attempted any thing of the kind. Our people seemed to be greatly interested in it.

F. GILLILAN.

WEST JEFFERSON, O.

Children's Day was observed here yesterday for the first time. A severe rain-storm prevailed both morning and afternoon, but such was the interest aroused, and such the desire for success, that we had, in spite of the weather, a very fair attendance. Every body was delighted, and I was especially pleased with the collection.

Ours is only an average school, and if its contribution to the "Children's Fund" represents an average amount, you should receive this year more than $250,000. D. C. THOMAS.

DELAWARE, O.

Within find order for $11 06, the amount of our collection yesterday. We had a very pleasant day, notwithstanding the fact that the weather was exceedingly stormy. Had the day been fine our collection would have been much larger. Our charge is small, and this is the first observance of the day by it. We hope to do better in the future.

CHAS. GALLIMORE.

EDGERTON, WILLIAMS CO., O.

The inclosed is the children's gift. Yesterday was a day of joy in our little village, and the church seemed as if it truly belonged to Paradise. Amid shrubs and wreaths and flowers were singing-birds, that swelled the chorus of praise with the children and warbled the most delightful interludes. It was a day that threw light into many a heart and home.

WM. S. PHILPOTT.

PLAIN CITY, O.

We had a glorious good time Children's Day. Used the programme you sent us. We had a large crowd, and all seemed to be well pleased. We gave the whole day to the children. J. M. RIFE.

IRONTON, O.

Please find inclosed draft for $15, contributed by my Sunday-school and congregation on Children's Day. An intense rain materially depleted our ranks, yet the interest was good and the day a success. The programme was excellent, and was highly appreciated by all. The observance of the day has created an interest in the educational interests of our Church that will, we hope, be lasting. J. B. BRADLEY.

TROY, O.

Your "Fadeless Flowers" gave system and enthusiasm to our Sunday-schools, and though till 9 o'clock it rained heavily, our collections are better than we dared to hope. Even the small colored church here raised $5.

M. KAUFFMAN.

PIQUA, O.

The chief success of the day was as an educator. At the close of the service a local preacher remarked to me that he did not know before that Children's Day was of so much importance. R. E. SMITH.

SPRINGFIELD, O.

At our Conference, at Dayton last fall, I told you I intended to make an effort to increase our Children's Day collection considerably this year. I am glad to report success in that effort. We ran up from $28 to $52. I inclose you a slip cut from one of our dailies, giving an account of our services. It was a very enjoyable occasion. I leave this charge this fall, but wherever I go I shall observe Children's Day and get you a good collection. W. N. BRODBECK.

PRESS NOTICE.

There have been numerous deeply interesting and highly successful Sunday-school entertainments in Springfield, but none more so than the Children's Day exercises, provided for by the Church Discipline, at St. Paul M. E. Church, Sabbath evening. The rooms were crowded long before the hour for the exercises to begin, and the spectacle was as bright and attractive as one would wish to see. The children of the school, seated by classes in front of the pulpit, seemed to understand perfectly the significance of the occasion, and to enter as heartily as only children can into the spirit of it. The pulpit platform was cleared of furniture and turned into a flower garden, as well as the front of the choir seats in the rear.

The exercises consisted of responsive Scripture reading, and questions and answers as to the object of the anniversary, from printed pages distributed before the opening, and entitled "Fadeless Flowers; an Order of Service for Children's Day, 1883." At one point in the exercises four young ladies, dressed all in white, with bouquets, or single blossoms, in hand, gave a recitation; but the prettiest and most effective of all was the song "Tender Little Twigs Are We," and recitation in concert by about twenty tots of the infant class, who accompanied the words with appropriate gestures. The object of the collection was the increase of the Children's Educational Fund, for assistance of young people struggling to fit themselves for the ministry or missionary work. Last year $15,000 were raised on Children's Day toward this fund, which it is intended to increase to a million of dollars, the interest to be devoted to the object stated. Each class inclosed its contribution in an envelope, with amount and teacher's name written on the outside. This was handed in when the number of the class was called. Several little girls then passed among the congregation with baskets, and received whatever sums the audience had to contribute. The exercises, which will long be remembered by all privileged to participate, closed with singing of a hymn: "We praise our Creator for moments so bright," and benediction by the pastor.

NEW ALBANY, IND.

The Children's Day service last night was a grand success. The large audience-room was packed with a cultured and sympathetic congregation. The Order of Service published by the Board of Education was used almost entirely, and other interesting features introduced. The church choir assisted the school in rendering the excellent music. Prof. Chas. Coffin, Superintendent, took charge of the meeting, conducting it in an able manner. The school performed its part of the programme in good style. The Centenary Church and Sunday-school, after observing Children's Day for three years, are to-day better pleased than ever with its objects and influences.

E. T. CURNICK, Pastor.

KNOXVILLE, IND.

Inclosed find draft for $8 62, our collection of yesterday for Children's Fund. Used "Fadeless Flowers" service. Had church nicely decorated,

and all were happy. One brother said it was the happiest day he had seen for five years.

S. S. MURPHY.

GOODLAND, IND.

I send you our collection for Children's Day. We had a very interesting meeting. This charge reported no collection last year. The people seemed much interested. I preached to the children in the morning, and at 3 P. M. we had a mass-meeting with suitable exercises for children.

H. N. OGDEN.

BROWNSTOWN, JACKSON CO., IND.

The day was observed according to instructions, and the superintendent handed me the amount of collection, $5 75. This is the first time the day has been observed here. A good impression was made, and we hope by another year an increased interest will be manifested.

T. HARRISON.

RUSHVILLE, IND.

Please find post-office order for $6 70, collection on Children's Day. I think I can double that amount next year. We had a good day. The Order of Service was excellent. I congratulate you upon the success of your labor. May God bless the children!

J. A. SARGENT.

ATTICA, IND.

Children's Day was of more than usual interest with us. This charge has not been in the custom of observing the day, and is only becoming interested. We sent you last year $5. You see we have more than doubled this year. We used the Service you sent us, with very pleasant results, many being present notwithstanding the day was rainy. The portion assigned to the primary class was particularly successful, being a very beautiful and touching service by the little ones. I have made it a rule to observe this day, and believe it to be a very happy departure. Wishing you the most eminent success in your department of our common Church benevolence,

ISAAC DALE.

NOBLESVILLE, IND.

Please find inclosed draft for $6, Children's Day collection. The helps, Letter of Invitation and Service, were very nice. The service is of great value, and our people were delighted. *It was a high day.*

THOMAS STABLER.

BEDFORD, IND.

I send you herewith the collection of Children's Day. This is the first time it has been observed in this charge. Yesterday was rainy, or we could have done better. We had our church beautifully decorated, and used the exercise you sent us. Every one pronounced it a perfect success, and it would have cheered your heart to see how our dear little ones came up with their contributions. I think it has been a great blessing to our Sunday-school and church. We hope to do better next year.

M. S. HEAVENRIDGE.

MT. CARROLL, ILL.

In spite of a rainy day we observed Children's Day—and quite successfully, as our report will show. We devoted one of the three services of the day to the Sunday-School Union, raising over $6 for that cause, which is about three times the usual collection.

The day was a grand success. It was the *first* observance of it in this charge. Every body is enthusiastic over it, and wants it next year. It has done the *whole cause of God good.* C. W. CRALL.

EFFINGHAM, ILL.

Allow me to suggest that the Board of Education did just the right thing in putting in the programme the facts in regard to our colleges, etc., and what the children are doing in their collections. *The same facts should be embodied in the programme for* 1884. The Board of Education has this year done a grand work in educating our congregations and Sunday-schools in the objects of Children's Day. R. H. MANIER.

CLAYTON, ILL.

The interests of Children's Day were much interfered with by a very severe storm of rain, lasting about thirty hours. We did the best we could under all the disadvantages of the occasion. The children were perfectly enchanted, and the church as much pleased as the little ones.

It is one of the grandest institutions of the Church. Had the day been pleasant the collection would have been about three times as large as it was. F. M. HAYES.

PINCKNEYVILLE, ILL.

Our Children's Day service was a perfect success. Though the morning was gloomy, and the roads *very muddy*, yet the church was full, gallery and small rooms as well. The church was handsomely decorated, and "Fadeless Flowers," as rendered by the children, gave entire satisfaction. Our collection last year—the first for this charge—was $4; this year, $11. So you see we are doing better fast. Children's Day is a fixed thing in Pinckneyville. It is a blessing to young and old.

W. H. TYNER.

GIRARD, ILL.

For the first time Children's Day was observed at Girard yesterday. The school and its patrons were delighted. The church was beautifully decorated. The little folks' exercise created great enthusiasm in the audience. J. T. ROBERTS.

VIRGINIA, CASS CO., ILL.

Children's Day was observed for the first time here last year. It was, however, so thoroughly enjoyed, that it is now looked upon as an established fact. Our society, until recently embarrassed with debt, is now free to give more liberally to the various causes that call so loudly for help. The amount we send is small, but our society and school are small,

and this is composed of the pennies and nickels of the *wee* ones. Such as it is we send with our best wishes and prayers for the cause of Christian education.

The "Letters" and "Services" you sent us were thoroughly enjoyed by the school, and we thank you for them. Though a rainy day, we had a crowded and interested house. I trust that you will receive a *general response from the whole Church.* M. AUER.

ROANOKE, ILL.

I send herewith $12 82, the collection on Children's Day. We used the "Services" you sent us, and found them most satisfactory.

Children's Day with us was a very enjoyable time. The house was filled with happy children and others, of all ages, from the oldest in town to infants. All seemed well satisfied with the day. The collection was taken by classes. J. J. M'LAUGHLIN.

PHILO, ILL.

Our people were well pleased with the exercises. I think your arrangement a grand one, and hope the idea will be carried out next year. Collection an increase over last year of $7. ROBERT STEPHENS,

TOLONO, ILL.

The Children's Day service at the Methodist church was fully observed on last Sabbath, notwithstanding the rain which fell most of the forenoon. The attendance at the Sabbath-school was good, but the congregation, apart from the school, was small, there being none from the country. The church was handsomely decorated with a profusion of flowers, and the singing birds added much to the attractions.

The exercises were interesting and instructive, particularly those of the infant classes under the care and training of Mrs. James Darrah and Miss Laura Cook. The collection amounted to $7 70, nearly all of which was contributed by the Sabbath-school.

I inclose money-order for $7 70, our collection on Children's Day. This is our second year, and I intended the amount should have been $10, which it would have been had weather been propitious. Our Sabbath-school is deeply interested in this subject, and it will not be difficult to keep up this observance in future. There was no expense to deduct from collection. Every thing contributed. IRA A. MANLEY.

JERSEYVILLE, ILL.

Please find inclosed draft on New York for $22, the amount contributed *with great joy* by the Jerseyville Methodist Episcopal Church (Southern Illinois Conference) to the "Children's Day Fund." This is an advance of nearly one hundred per cent. over any former year.

The Service you sent us was carried out in detail, and was a great delight to us all. Notwithstanding it rained the house was crowded. Each teacher, scholar, and friend brought a beautiful bouquet, and placed it in

a large cross bored full of holes, which, when solidly covered with flowers, was most beautiful. Children's Day, of itself, is a great blessing to the Church.

C. E. CLINE.

KANE, ILL.

Our Children's Day concert service last night drew a good attendance, although a bad night. I like your service the best of all I have ever seen, and hope you may furnish us with something equally as good next year. We used all of it to excellent advantage, with increased interest in our common work.

N. H. LEE.

DIXON, ILL.

It rained here all day, so that we did not have out half an audience. The sum inclosed is a good collection considering the attendance. Had the day been pleasant, it would have been as much again, or even more.

I have not failed to observe Children's Day any year from the first. It is a grand institution.

OLIN F. MATTISON.

PRAIRIE DEPOT P. O., ILL.

This year has been the first time we have observed Children's Day on Freeport Circuit. The members are not wealthy, but work hard to keep up expenses in Sunday-school. We succeeded in raising $3, and find it a pleasure in sending in our mite. We feel paid for our pains, having had a grand time and a complete success. Every one was highly entertained and pleased. I trust this is the beginning of greater success in the future.

ABRAHAM HOPKINS.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Inclosed please find my check for $16, the Children's Day collection. Our collection was small, owing to the rainy day. The weather was most disagreeable, and at night very stormy. Our collection was set for the night. But it is a collection, and one very cheerfully given, mostly by children.

T. P. MARSH.

BIG RAPIDS, MICH.

I send you $12, the collection on Children's Day. This is quite an advance over last year. In addition to the other exercises, we had the ordinance of baptism. Two infants and three of the Sunday-school children were baptized; also seven of our Sunday-school children were received into full membership, and three joined on probation. We had a glad day.

E. S. MECHESNEY.

PRAIRIEVILLE, MICH.

You will see by the amount inclosed that our Children's Day was a success financially, at least, and I trust in every other regard as well. Last year our schools raised $5; this year, $12 60.

The day was rainy, but our churches were full, and all seemed pleased. We used the programme you sent us, supplemented by recitations, readings, etc.

I think that the largely increased amount over last year is due to the fact that a great revival has swept over this charge. Another cause may be found in the fact that we talked about Children's Day a great deal in the Sunday-school for several weeks before the day arrived, and so had the people quite enthusiastic.

We prepared carefully, and were able to do the exercises well. We have already announced for Children's Day, 1884. The children, and I think the older ones, will look forward with pleasure to its coming.

W. R. CLANCY.

MIDLAND CITY, MICH.

Although late getting our supplies for Children's Day, yet it was a splendid success. Had plants and birds; used "Fadeless Flowers," and got $5; good for a rainy day and evening. All enjoyed it. Collected last year, $3. Besides the collection, the information was valuable to the people. May the Children's Day pass into the Church's calendar as one of her notable days!

H. W. HICKS.

LESLIE, MICH.

A lowering day, crowded church, profuse decoration, interesting service, infant baptisms. In the evening the rain fell in torrents, so that children could not attend. The collection was larger at the *one* service than ever before realized in this church for this cause at both services.

L. DE LAMARTER.

VASSAR, MICH.

We received and used the requisites you sent us, and our Sunday-school and people entered into the work. We raised the $20 45 inclosed without the least pushing or crowding. The people seemed glad to help.

H. S. WHITE.

MARINE CITY, MICH.

Inclosed please find a five-dollar money-order for Children's Day Fund. We had our own programme. We had a baptismal service with appropriate remarks in the morning, with collection, and at four o'clock a children's meeting, consisting of speaking and singing.

It was their first meeting here, and it was a very successful and enjoyable day. It will long be remembered by all present, and they look for its happy return.

JACOB HORTON.

FORT GRATIOT, MICH.

Please find inclosed $20, collection for Children's Day, which I think will make us the banner school for this district, (Port Huron.) We used the Service, "Fadeless Flowers," quite successfully. All were pleased, and the result was quite satisfactory.

WILLIAM C. WAY.

DENTON, DETROIT CONFERENCE, MICH.

Two of our schools celebrated Children's Day, namely, at Sheldon's and Denton.

Considerable interest was manifested, and the occasions were pleasant and profitable.

I think the printed Service gave very general satisfaction, and the children will be encouraged for another year.

Herewith please receive $6 as their offering to the Children's Fund.

F. W. WARREN, Pastor.

RICHMOND, WIS.

Children's Day has come and gone, and with it plenty of rain. I have two appointments on my charge, and in both churches we used the programme, with some additions and variations. The service was grand. We did all we could on our part; but it rained most of the day, so that not half the congregation was out. Our collection is $9. I am confident that it would have been $20 had it been a pleasant day. They raised $2 last year the old way. I indorse this plan with all my heart.

D. O. SANBORN.

RIPON, WIS.

Inclosed I forward the proceeds of our Children's Day, which was quite a success.

We gave both morning and evening services to the children, dividing the printed Service, and supplementing with recitations and select readings by the small scholars in the morning, and by the older ones in the evening; and, as we have many very good speakers and readers, the programme gave great satisfaction. STEPHEN SMITH.

OSCEOLA MILLS, POLK CO., WIS.

It was our fault that we did not start soon enough to make Children's Day a great success. The programme reached us Saturday evening, and Sabbath morning was appointed for the exercises. We could not consistently with other arrangements postpone, and went through with them. These facts and delinquencies taken into the account we did well; but better next year, if spared. E. B. RUSSELL.

WEST SALEM, WIS.

Inclosed find order for $3, the amount of our Children's Day collection.

It was an enthusiastic day. If there were no returns but attention and interest to the subject of education it would abundantly repay, but we got a little besides.

Children's Day has become a welcome fact in this charge.

F. L. HART, Pastor.

BLACK EARTH, WIS.

Children were enthusiastic both in the carrying out of the Order of Service, decoration of the church, and the collection. All hearts were happy.

S. S. BENEDICT, Pastor.

PLAINVIEW, MINN.

We had a grand day yesterday. In the morning I preached a sermon to the Sunday-school and congregation on Psa. 34. 11. In the evening we used the Services sent by the Board, with speaking by children.

Our church was full in the morning, and in the evening, besides the pews, the people stood in the entry and on the church steps. Our membership is less than 60 with probationers, including preacher's family. Our Sunday-school averages 65. Our collection yesterday will be over $11, as you will find inclosed. We think this a grand success, not only for the money, but the great interest taken in the occasion. After preaching I asked the congregation to stay in Sunday-school session, and we had present 135.

Wishing success to the Board of Education, ALFRED CRESSEY.

FARIBAULT, MINN.

We had a most delightful Children's Day service at both the appointments on this charge. One of them had never held such a service before, and they were delighted with it. J. MILTON AKERS.

ROCHESTER, MINN.

Children's Day with us was a grand success. The church was full morning and evening, and those who took part in the exercises did themselves great credit. Our collection was $24 79. JOHN STAFFORD.

AUSTIN, MINN.

Inclosed find our collection on Children's Day, $5 50. We used the Service you prepared, and had a good day.

The education which these services are giving the children is worth far more than any trouble and expense, to say nothing of the good the Children's Educational Fund is doing. E. R. LATHROP.

HARVARD, NEB.

We had our Children's Day yesterday. We gave the whole day to the children; had the school to do all the singing and as much responsive reading in the morning as was necessary. At night we had an impressive concert. It was a great day for the little ones—weather unfavorable in the morning, but pleasant in the evening. Our town and county have been afflicted by the loss of crops for three years past, and are, consequently, badly crippled financially, and have heavy home burdens. If all the churches do as well proportionately your returns will reach $150,000 instead of $15,000. E. WILKINSON, Pastor.

TECUMSEH, NEB.

Please find inclosed $8 03. the amount of our collection on Children's Day. We made it a grand day for our church and Sabbath-school, using the "Fadeless Flowers" as a part of the morning programme.

L. LAVERTY, Pastor.

OMAHA, NEB.

The free distribution of "Children's Letters" and "Fadeless Flowers" was of great benefit to us. This charge has always observed Children's Day, and had a good time, but the most royal occasion of all was that of June 10, 1883. Our Sunday-schools could not now dispense with the Educational Society, on account of its reflex benefits. Children's Day is educating both the children and the patrons of the Sunday-school.

J. W. SHANK, Pastor.

BOZEMAN, MONTANA.

We observed Children's Day, as you will ascertain from the inclosure of $18. Your Order of Service was used. We had birds and flowers and brilliant audiences. You will please acknowledge the receipt of this in a letter to the children, to be publicly read. S. B. GRAY.

GRANGEVILLE, IDAHO.

It is with a mingled feeling of gratitude and satisfaction that I write these lines to you. Last year, at Goldendale, I tried to do WELL on Children's Day, and did raise more than an average for the size of the place. But when I applied to the Board for help in behalf of Brother Walton Skipworth, and received it, and thereby placed him in the Willamette University, I resolved by God's grace and help to try to do better in the future. I more and more appreciate the aims and ends of the Board of Education. I look forward to the time when the fund now slowly accumulating will be one of the grandest cogs in our wheel—"A nail in a sure place." I pray that the little cloud like a man's hand, seen from the Mount Carmel of a noble purpose, may overspread the sky, and distill drops which, like the rain and snow from heaven, "returneth not thither, but watereth the earth." Inclosed find the Children's Day offering, the first time it was ever observed at this place. I could not but pen you these lines from the fullness of my heart. G. E. WILCOX.

WILMOT, DAKOTA.

Children's Day has been observed at Wilmot this year for the first time. Our collection is small, but this charge was only organized last fall. We had a very pleasant and profitable time.

Hoping Children's Day was a grand success, both spiritually and financially, and praying God to abundantly bless and prosper you in this great work, I remain your brother in the Gospel, JAMES ROWE.

RIVERTON, IA.

Inclosed we hand you the amount of our collection. We had a glorious day yesterday—the best Children's Service I ever conducted. Those programmes were a wonderful help. Every body enjoyed them, especially the "Little Twigs" exercise. We made good use of every thing on the leaf, and promised them another next year. J. R. WILLIAMS, Sup't.

LYONS, IA.

We observed Children's Day at Lyons. Though it rained all day we had a very interesting time. We followed your programmes, and all were pleased with them. The letter to the children is capital. You would better keep up that plan. F. J. MILLER.

CEDAR FALLS, IA.

We had an excellent Children's Day service yesterday all day. Used programme received from you in morning very acceptably, and had a Children's Song Service in evening. The interest in Children's Day is increasing here among both children and adults.

We send $20, nearly twice the amount of last year's collection.

W. FRANK PAXTON, Pastor.

GLIDDEN, IA.

Inclosed find collection. We sang the songs in "Fadeless Flowers," putting in class exercises for three classes. The service was a grand success. The attendance was more than the seating capacity of our church. It is safe to say that Children's Day will hereafter be annually observed in Glidden. W. M. WELCH.

GRINNELL, IA.

Inclosed please find $15, our collection for Children's Day. One year ago last Sunday our city was visited by the terrible tornado, known as the Grinnell tornado or cyclone. Nearly all our people were in its track and suffered from it. But God has been very gracious to us. Our church has greatly recovered from that terrible day and its doings. The city is entirely rebuilt, though the trees show the path of the destroyer. The statistics and facts contained in the service were a revelation to many, and tended to develop a respect for the grandeur and greatness of our Church. This was our first Children's Day in Grinnell, and the next will be looked for with interest. D. MURPHY.

MITCHELL, IA.

Children's Day, as observed by us on the Mitchell and St. Ansgar Charge, was a success. We have two schools, and observed the day in both.

Results: Large congregations; valuable information imparted regarding the Educational interests of our Church; an increase of interest in the work of the Sunday-school scholars, and $5 for the Fund.

"Fadeless Flowers" answered the purpose well. I have only one suggestion to make for next year: Put still more *information* into the service. THOS. OLIVER, Pastor.

TIPTON, IA.

Children's Day was a grand success with us. I preached to the children in the morning on "Christ and the True Education." It was a rainy morning, but there was a large audience, composed principally of children. In the evening we had our concert services. The audience-room,

much the largest in our little city, was filled to overflowing. The Service you sent us was used with complete satisfaction. A few short addresses were interspersed.

The "Red Letters" were widely distributed and well received. We did our best to work up a good interest, and more than met our expectations.

As the result financially I inclose you a post-office money-order for $12. The collection here last year was $6 50.

It was a grand day to us all. Hurrah for Children's Day!

EUGENE MAY, Pastor.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

Please find inclosed a draft for $100, as the offering of Grand Avenue M. E. Church for Children's Day.

We are in the midst of a glorious revival. In this collection you see the genuineness of the revival.

R. M. BARNS, Pastor.

AVILLA, MO.

Children's Day was something new under the sun for the people of the Avilla Charge, being a circuit of six appointments, some of them twenty miles apart. I could not observe the second Sunday in June, but I did the next best thing—had the service in a grove on Saturday before.

We had rain to interfere with us some, but, as a result of the first effort the children have made, I send you their offering to the cause of education, $6 15.

JOHN J. MARTIN.

AUSTIN, MO.

The Children's Day was observed at each appointment on this charge, beginning on the first Sabbath of June and ending with the third Sabbath. These were great days with our children. We used your Service at each place. Bishop Peck's portrait was hung in a beautiful wreath of flowers and amid other fine decorations. We referred to him as an example of Christian benevolence and a friend of education. Inclosed find $13, as our collection for the Children's Fund, for which please forward the usual receipt.

FRANK EXLEY.

CLINTON, MO.

Inclosed please find check on New York for $15, amount of our collection on Children's Day. I am pleased to state that this day has become with us one of the most prominent, as well as the most pleasant, days of the year. While we are glad to help swell the Children's Fund each year, yet we endeavor to give the children to understand that the day is not altogether for that purpose, but one set apart by our Church for them, and they look forward with great pleasure to their annual festival. The Service prepared and forwarded from your office was used by us in the afternoon with profit, and in the evening our exercises were well received. We devoted the morning to the children also. Hoping the returns to the Children's Fund this year will be largely in excess of last, I remain,

A. J. BLOCKFORD, Sup't Sunday-school.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

At Union M. E. Church the morning service was devoted to the children. In addition to "Fadeless Flowers," our pastor, Rev. C. P. Masden, preached a sermon to the children. Our collection, $55, will be sent you through Walden & Stowe. W. E. BARNES, Ass't Sup't.

WASHINGTON, KAN.

The church here for three successive years has observed Children's Day with increasing interest. Last Sunday we gave the morning hour for preaching to the printed Service that you so kindly sent us. The day was delightful, house crowded, many standing during the whole service, others went away for want of standing-room. The Service was well rendered, and gave unusual satisfaction. The day is becoming more popular every year. Three years ago the meeting was a success in every way except in collection—none taken. Last year an increase of interest over the preceding, and $5 15 collection sent you. This year still greater interest in the service and collection $15 15—pretty good increase in three years. We are away in the north-west corner of Kansas Conference. You will hear from this church annually as Children's Day occurs.

A. H. WALTER.

RUSH CENTER, KAN.

Inclosed please find $1 as the contribution of this little frontier school on Children's Day.

This is small, yet, all things duly considered, this school gives more than any school in New York. May the Lord bless the use to which Children's Day collections are put! GEO. BUTLER.

ELLSWORTH, KAN.

Inclosed you will find postal-order for receipts of our Children's Day collection. We used your Service, and every one was well pleased. The amount is not very much, but as it was something new the children consider it quite a nice offering. We are in hopes of doing better next year. Trust that this fund will greatly increase year by year, and that God will abundantly bless your labor. WALTER A. SAVILLE.

COUNCIL GROVE, KAN.

Yesterday was a day of triumph. Our gallant, earnest band of Sabbath-school children took a forward step in their contribution toward the Educational Fund. With flowers around them and above them, and amid the song of birds, not one was seen to falter, but with nickels, dimes, and quarters they made a rattle of the collection-box which told plainly enough of large hearts and ready hands. Though a young school, $12 were raised.

E. H. PARKINSON.

BELLEVILLE, KAN.

Children's Day was celebrated last Sunday for the first time in this charge with good results. We had the church decorated, speaking by little ones, and a good congregation.

Your plan of supplying an Order of Service is *just the thing*. It will be a grand thing to get our many thousands of Sunday-school children interested in the object of this day's celebration. R. A. HOFFMAN.

OSWEGO, KAN.

I herewith send you our contribution on Children's Day. We gave the whole day to the young. I preached specially to the little ones in the morning. In the evening we took up your programme, and liked it very well, especially the exercise for the primary class. Our collection was $5 last year; this year, $18. H. M'BIRNEY.

SOLOMON CITY, KAN.

Children's Day passed off very pleasantly. There was a large attendance. Children were interested and happy. We used your Order of Exercises. Collection, $12, almost double that of last year.

A. T. RILEY.

NICKERSON, KAN.

It affords me great pleasure to send you the inclosed. Children's Day was a complete success with us in every way. We used the Service, and I remarked on the various topics. I aided the cause somewhat by relating my own experience in Evanston, and how, out of a great darkness, you had assisted me. I shall always remember your kindness to me while struggling to fit myself for the ministry. God has given me a fair degree of success in the great object of the ministry—bringing men, women, and children to Christ. My church, to which I am sent this year, is struggling with a heavy debt, but we are confident of victory. E. C. BROOKS.

NEWTON, KAN.

I inclose our Children's Day collection. It rained nearly all day Saturday, but the sun shone brightly on Sabbath morning. We devoted the morning hour to this service. Our little church was packed to its utmost. The programme was followed, with recitations. It was a good day.

NOAH ASHER.

MARION, KAN.

You will find inclosed draft for $25, to be applied to the "Children's Educational Fund." Our Sunday-school numbers about one hundred scholars. Last year our collection was $5; this year it is $25. We hope the increase has been as good in other schools. S. C. ORR.

LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO.

The birds, the flowers, and the children, in the presence of a large and appreciative congregation, conspired together to observe and enjoy Children's Day in the far-off and upper regions of this, our Rocky Mountain charge. Last year we observed and enjoyed the day; this year the interest and success of the day far surpassed last year. The Superintendent of our mission, Rev. Thomas Harwood, was with us, and added much to the

interest of the services. We used your Children's Day Service. The collection amounted to $10, which we inclose. D. M. BROWN.

OGDEN, UTAH.

I inclose you draft for $6 for the Children's Educational Fund. We observed Children's Day as fully as possible. During the entire day the fact that it was Children's Day was kept before old and young. The evening service was for the children specially, and was apparently appreciated by all present, and we had a good congregation. It was a profitable day. We are working here against tremendous odds; but we send our small offering to your fund, as we want to keep up a connection with the great Methodist Church. A. W. ADKINSON.

AUSTIN, NEV.

Copies of Children's Day exercise, with accompanying Letter to Children, were duly received and used. With but little exception we followed the programme as prepared, and liked it quite well. It seemed to give general satisfaction. I feel sure you will note a large increase in the contributions of Children's Day this year, and shall be pleased to learn from your report that such is the case. The draft on New York for $8 50 covers the amount of our collection. This is only a slight advance on last year, accounted for in the fact that the same attention was bestowed then as now.

F. M. WARRINGTON.

SANTA CRUZ, CAL.

This is the first time in the history of this charge that we have attempted an observance of Children's Day. Inclosed is the amount, $6—not much, but a beginning. Hereafter the day will be observed in this charge.

W. DENNETT.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

I was made glad by the arrival of the additional Services on June 9. We gave the Service almost exactly as printed, and it passed off grandly, as you may judge when I say that the charge is less than three years old, with a membership of only sixty.

The recitation and songs for the infant-class were the feature of the occasion, and aided very largely in securing the collection of $30 25. We took the collection immediately after singing "Lead me, precious Saviour."

GEORGE W. BEATTY.

EAST OAKLAND, CAL.

Our Children's Day service was a decided success. Every body seemed delighted, and the children were happy. It was the first service of the kind ever held in this church. Our collection was $18, which you will herewith find in post-office order. If all the pastors would take hold of this matter we could give you *one hundred thousand dollars per annum* easily enough. If every one of our more than 1,600,000 scholars would but give five cents, it would give you more than $80,000. JONATHAN L. MANN.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

Children's Day with me was a grand success. The collection, $25, please find inclosed. We are doing our best for your cause.

JOHN W. HUGHES, JR.

BAKER CITY, OREGON.

We received your Orders of Service for Children's Day, and used them with great success. I think them grand. Many of our children, I trust, will never forget Children's Day of 1883. Please find post-office order for $10.

J. W. MAXWELL.

WALLA-WALLA, WASHINGTON TER.

I inclose to you $13 as a practical proof of our interest in Children's Day.

A. J. JOSLYN.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON TER.

Children's Day was observed here with the inclosed pecuniary result, namely, $18.

J. FRANKLAND.

REMARKS.

1. If any person can give attention to the full significance of the foregoing panoramic, though miniature, view of what took place in our churches and Sunday-schools on last Children's Day, and not see in it unusual occasion for rejoicing and hope, we envy not his qualities either of head or heart.

2. If any correspondent should feel disappointed in not seeing in it his own report, we must confess to the impossibility of publishing many notices of great interest, but which will be well represented in the forthcoming list of collections.

3. If any pastors, churches, or Sunday-schools have up to this time stood aloof from the Children's Day movement, we respectfully request them to consider whether they have not, by so doing, neglected a great privilege which at least the children under their influence should have been allowed to enjoy; and also, whether it is not their duty even yet to find some way of co-operating the present year?

4. Whatever any may have done or not done in the past, we earnestly invite all to plan sufficiently in advance for timely and efficient co-operation in 1884, when it is proposed to *initiate our celebration of the Centenary of our Church organization by a Children's Day of extraordinary interest and effort.*

EDUCATIONAL TRACTS.

Readers of the foregoing extracts from our correspondence will have noted the high estimate placed upon our "Order of Service for Children's Day, 1883," on account of the facts and information it contained. Again and again we have been assured that the statements it gives in dialogue form, especially under the heads, "Church Helps for Promoting Knowledge," and "Results and Promise of the Children's Day and the Children's Fund," contain precisely what large numbers of our people want to know.

It was in this belief that the following suggestions were made in our circular to superintendents: "Care should be taken to preserve all copies of the programme. At the close of the day they should be presented to all who have taken part in the exercises, with advice to preserve them for study and reference at home. Reflection will show that both the Order of Service and the Letter to the Children have an intrinsic value that will not diminish with years."

Having a limited number of both these publications left over, after having supplied the orders for Children's Day, it has occurred to us that they may do excellent service in many places as educational tracts. We therefore offer to send them gratuitously and post-paid, while the supply lasts, to any pastor or Sunday-school superintendent who will apply for them, on the mutual understanding that he will distribute them among the members of his congregation or Sunday-school with proper explanations and requests to read and preserve. In conformity with convenient postal rates they are sent in packages of twenty-five, fifty, and one hundred. Applicants should, therefore, specify which of the foregoing numbers will best meet their wants.

CHOICE MUSIC.

The Order of Service referred to above contains four pieces of original music, set to very sweet hymns. Two of them are for infant classes, entitled respectively "Little Twigs" and "Lead me, Precious Saviour." Both of these are spoken of as having given great satisfaction. But the other pieces, entitled "The Children's Praise Anthem" and "The Floral Mis-

sion Hymn," also have ardent admirers. We have already been asked to send them to be cut out and put in the singing books of Sunday-schools for frequent use hereafter. Schools that have not had the Service are at liberty to apply for copies for either or both of the above stated objects, but they are advised not to delay their applications, as the supply may not last very long.

SUGGESTIONS AND REQUESTS.

Our recent special circular to superintendents contained the following paragraph:

> As the Children's Day observance is still in its infancy, a comparison of views and experiences as to the best modes of conducting it seems desirable. This circular is sent out in single copies for your individual use. Please preserve it for consultation and reference till after the 10th of June. Then write to us as to the success and influence of the Children's Day exercises in your community, making free suggestions as to possible improvements for next year.

In response to the above request, we have already received valuable suggestions both from superintendents and pastors, and we invite a continuance of similar favors. We also prefer to receive them soon rather than later. Already the following important question is under anxious consideration: *How shall the Children's Day of* 1884 *be planned and provided for so as in the* VERY BEST WAY to inaugurate the services and efforts of the first Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church? This is a question that should interest thoughtful minds in all parts of the Church, and as we have great regard for the precept of Solomon, "In the multitude of counselors there is safety," we invite counsel respecting it. As it is not unlikely that our counselors will differ more or less in opinion, we cannot promise to follow the advice of all. But we will promise to consider attentively all well-meant hints and helps that may be tendered us in proper time, endeavoring to secure the best possible conclusions in the premises.

In addition to the suggestions invited, we also request the contribution of good articles, both in prose and in poetry, that may be of real value in preparing both the programme and companion-sheet or pamphlet which it is proposed to print

next year. In nothing has the sentiment of our advisers been more concurrent thus far than as to the desirability of furnishing, in addition to a well-constructed programme, a collection of short addresses, recitations, and dialogues adapted to children and youth of different ages, that may be interspersed with the general exercises of the day or evening. One correspondent indicates the want in the following terms:

> Can there not be furnished a few appropriate selections for recitation or reading, either on separate printed slips, or collected in a pamphlet and sold at cost?
>
> We have a deluge of appropriate selections for temperance, missionary, and other services, but it is exceedingly difficult to find any thing strictly appropriate for Children's Day. Most in this region think that no programme is complete without at least a few declamations or readings.

We have heretofore been aware of the desirability of some such additional helps, and now we propose to provide them for next year. In so doing we will welcome aid from any direction. We according invite for the object named the sending in of any articles that have been prepared, this year or previously, in view of such wants, and especially articles or exercises that, having been tested, have proved to be well adapted to the end proposed. We also invite the contribution of original pieces written specially on the hints here given, and under the inspiration of the Children's Day just celebrated. A Children's Day literature has yet to be created, and the object is worthy of the best brain in Christendom. We, however, invite these contributions, not for money, but for the love of the cause. Whatever we print will be sent out gratuitously, at least so far as profit is concerned; so that, while we will gladly give appropriate credits, we offer no moneyed compensation for articles adopted. We also wish it distinctly understood that all articles sent us must be subject to the full editorial prerogatives of acceptance, declination, or modification.

CHILDREN'S DAY EXTENDING.

The Presbyterian Church has now formally and officially adopted the observance of Children's Day, not only after the manner practiced among us, but also on the very day appointed by our General Conference as far back as 1872. This year its highest legislative body, in session at Saratoga Springs, on May 23, unanimously adopted the following:

"The General Assembly hereby designate the Second Sabbath in June as Children's Day, on which special services for the children shall be held, and the vital topics of the Christian nurture and conversion of the young shall be pressed upon the entire congregation."

Not doubting that this action will result in great good to that Church and its children, we gladly welcome the co-operation of so large and influential a body of Christians in a cause of such growing magnitude and interest.—*The Christian Advocate.*

At the recent session of the Maryland Classis of the Reformed Church it was determined to celebrate, in June, a Children's Day, and devote the collections to a permanent fund for education. In some churches anniversary and missionary collections for the children of the Sunday-schools are observed. The design of this action is to make the observance general, and to devote the collection to a specific object. We can say that for several years the Methodist Episcopal Church, by its Discipline, has required the celebration of Children's Day, and the fruits in every respect have been most valuable. Our Educational Fund is growing and useful.—*The Baltimore Methodist.*

THE OLD AND THE YOUNG REJOICING TOGETHER.

AN INCIDENT OF CHILDREN'S DAY.

THE Rev. Landon Taylor, one of the oldest and most venerated ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, spent Children's Day at Farley, Iowa. Writing from that place, he said:

Children's Day at Farley was one of the most interesting of my life. A little girl came forward to speak her piece on "The inspiration of birds." When standing beneath a cage of birds, she came to that part relating to birds, and as she pronounced the word, a little bird began to flutter and sing in such inspiring strains that the whole audience was thrilled. The bird continued its song until near the close of the speech. Had the whole programme been arranged, it could have been no more striking. I have witnessed many beautiful things among birds and flowers, but this was the most touching of its kind that I ever experienced. And I can say in addition that it was a blessed day throughout, and will long be remembered by all.—*North-western Christian Advocate.*

"THOU SHALT NOT COVET."

When the General Conference set apart the second Sunday in June "to be every-where observed as Children's Day," and directed "that wherever practicable a collection be taken up in the Sunday-school in aid of the 'Sunday-School Fund' of the Board of Education," a high appeal was made to the universal sentiment of regard for childhood and the interests

of the young. It would be difficult to point out in the whole history of our Church an official action more honorable to herself or more promising of good to her future. By the action referred to the Church practically said that, whereas the children of her Sunday-schools are almost incessantly called upon in behalf of missions and various other benevolences, it was only fair and right to allot to them *one* day in a year in which, without the interference of other claims, they and their friends might co-operate in behalf of an interest peculiarly their own. It was to have been hoped that an object so intrinsically appropriate and just would not be interfered with, directly or indirectly, either in letter or in spirit.

But events have occurred which seem to prove that some good men, perhaps unconsciously to themselves, have come so far to covet the advantages and popularity which the Children's Day has begun to win for itself, as to strive in various ways to turn them in favor of other objects. By whatever arguments such measures are apologized for they are obviously disapproved of by the straightforward judgment and the sensitive conscience of the Church. Few, if any, persons not under the spell of some local emergency fail to see that measures of that character, while in themselves of more than doubtful policy for the objects they propose to serve, are, at the same time, the chief embarrassments of a movement whose intrinsic merits entitle it to universal favor and success.

Without naming the special causes for its issue, we here insert an official circular of the Board of Education, recently published in vindication of its just claims to the one peculiar source of income specially appointed for its support and development:

To all Pastors and Sunday-school Superintendents of the Methodist Episcopal Church:

DEAR BRETHREN: Having learned with regret that efforts are made in some quarters to divert the Children's Day collection of our Church from its specifically designed object, we deem it a duty to ask your attention to the following important points:

I. *The action of the General Conference* as embodied in the Discipline of the Church in ¶ 254, § 5:

"It is recommended that the second Sunday in June be every-where observed as 'Children's Day,' and that wherever practicable a collection

be taken in the Sunday-school in aid of the 'Sunday-School Fund' of the Board of Education."

Another educational collection is provided for in the preceding section.

Without doubt the true interests of our educational system as a whole will be best promoted by the several departments working in harmony, and yet not interfering with each other. This is the more obvious, from the fact that the proceeds of the "Sunday-School Fund" are divided impartially in aid of properly recommended students in all the institutions and Conferences of the Church.

II. *The action of the Annual Conferences.*

Within the last two years nearly all the Annual Conferences of the Church have reviewed, indorsed, and commended the above-stated disciplinary plan, and especially that feature of it which sets apart *one day* in each year as an occasion of special exercises and offerings in behalf of the children of the Church.

III. *The co-operative action of the Churches and Sunday-schools.*

During the present year the above plan has been sanctioned, and this Board has been encouraged by voluntary and officially-signed pledges of co-operation on the part of thousands of our churches and Sunday-schools. Besides those that have formally applied for the printed helps offered by the Board of Education as a means of securing the best practical results of Children's Day, other thousands of churches and Sunday-schools are co-operating in analogous ways, and proposing, with equal cordiality, to send us the proceeds of their Children's Day collection at their earliest convenience after it is taken. We feel that in all these respects great progress has been made toward results of the highest importance to us as a Church, and we earnestly request that no counter-influence may mar our progress in a line of action long ago planned by the Church, and now giving evidence of its full practicability. The chief obstacles in the way are indifference on the one hand, and the urgency of local claims on the other. Help us, dear brethren, in rising above both, and securing results that will gladden and bless the Church and her children to the remotest generation.

M. SIMPSON, *President.*
OLIVER HOYT, *Treasurer.*
D. P. KIDDER, *Corresponding Secretary.*

805 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, *June* 6, 1883.

Prior to the issue of the above circular, the editor of "The Christian Advocate" had, from his point of view, seen occasion to write and print as follows:

Do not defraud the Board of Education by observing the day and keeping back the collection for home uses. What you give to this cause will come back to you some day in the minister whom you will love to hear. It is a very poor way to train up children to be good Methodists to teach them that a local Sunday-school will treat with contempt the instructions of the Church, and the whole effect of inspiring them with sympathy with

the work of the ministry and the Church is lost by the grasping local spirit.

Observe the day, explain what the collection is for, gather it, and be assured that in your subsequent appeals you will have not less, but rather the more, for home work. Is not this good sense and good Methodism?

The same article contained the following statement of the work and claims of the Board:

None who know the facts can hesitate to encourage all our churches to take the collection. In view of the brief period of its active existence, the Board of Education has had most encouraging success. Not only has the fund committed to its trust been faithfully kept and invested, but it has been doubled in amount. So far from limiting itself to its constitutional requirement to keep and increase the funds raised in the Centenary Year, 1866, the Board has paid out, in aid of nine hundred different students, the sum of $79,700, or the whole amount of its original joint fund and $13,877 more. In so doing, besides its direct benefit to students, it has indirectly aided through their students not less than seventy-three literary and theological institutions of the Church. During the past year it has aided two hundred and fifty different students, and its auxiliaries about half as many more. The pressure upon its funds from worthy candidates is increasing, demanding still greater provision in the future.

A SCENE ON THE FRONTIER.

I attended Children's Day in a sod school-house in the far west of Kansas. The school-house was packed. The table piled full of wild flowers. There were around it twenty or more lumber wagons, three spring wagons, but only one top-buggy. The collection was only $1 17, but that was proportionately more than will be given by many schools. The pastor, Rev. E. G. Carey, of Bull City Circuit, Kansas, is a brave, good man, living in a shed that we would hardly think good enough for our horses. Last winter he had to send his wife and youngest children away, lest they should freeze to death. The last time they had trouble with the Indians he was the only man who kept at his post, for miles around him, preaching often to the herdmen, who sat with their hands upon their revolvers. Yet this man will send you $1 17 for "higher education." Honor to such men! The Church knows but little about their worth, and the world much less; but they will be near the throne when some of us who have had good homes, safety, and comfort all our lives shall be afar off.

Yours fraternally, T. H. YOUNGMAN.

DANVILLE, N. Y., *June* 25, 1883.

ANOTHER FRONTIER SCENE.

IN the young city of Deadwood, Dakota, a beautiful Methodist Episcopal church was dedicated March 4, 1883. It had been built as the result of years of labor and sacrifice, and

at a cost of $6,700. Our Bishops, preachers, and people were all united in the enterprise. It was needed, and under its shelter the people were just beginning to realize grand returns. The children were in the Sabbath-school, the young men, out of eastern homes, were planning for current expenses. Families deprived for years of Church privileges were renewing religious life, and the entire community felt the power of this another visible church of Christ. Almost, as a matter of course, such a church was planning to have a grand Children's Day on the 10th of June. To the grief of all, on Friday, May 18, a disastrous flood burst through the city, carrying destruction in every direction. It swept away our church, not even leaving the lot on which it stood.

With most people such a calamity would have ended the thought of Children's Day for this year. But not so with the brave Dakotans.

Read the following letter from the pastor:

Inclosed I hand you $20, Children's Day collection from our school for Children's Fund, to be passed to the credit of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday-school, Deadwood, Dakota, Black Hills Mission Conference. Now please read our story of total loss of Church property, and see if you cannot enlist our pastors and Sunday-schools to help us rebuild. We cannot do it alone. I was almost afraid to present this object, but we had commenced before the flood. So in our temporary quarters I preached on the subject, and told the school that while a terrible calamity was on us we could be loyal to the Church. The children and young folks said O. K., and went at it with western vim. They decorated with evergreens and flowers, followed the "exercise," and rustled in this collection. We enroll eighty, Grand field here. Methodism must see to it that we have a church edifice, and by the blessing of God we will hold this, the commercial capital of the Hills. E. B. CUMMINGS.

We suggest to Sunday-school superintendents to read or state these facts to their Sunday-schools, and invite offerings to be sent to Rev. E. B. Cummings, Deadwood, Dakota.

We gladly re-echo the ringing words of the "North-western Christian Advocate" on the subject:

Notice that that church, even in its adversity, grew happy on Children's Day and gave $20 to the fund. That simple, liberal act measures the mettle of those brethren. Many churches would have whined about poverty and kept every penny. Give them dollars for each willing mill in

that twenty. Let that church go up, and who would not count it a privilege to help rebuild it?

HAPPY THOUGHTS.

THE following remarks, which we clip from a secular paper, but which are credited to the "Standard" of Chicago, beautifully illustrate the progress and development of the Children's Day idea. They indicate a line of grand possibilities, which it only requires the faith and labor of Christian churches to convert into a still grander reality:

Now that Children's Day proper is past—and that its celebration was both agreeable and profitable many of our churches will bear enthusiastic testimony—why not begin to prepare for the next such occasion by making every Sabbath a veritable Children's Day? With much of attention to child tastes and wants, and a generous infusion of the spirit of love, we may make the first day of each week a time looked forward to by small and great with hope and delight. Then, perhaps, we may come to celebrate Children's Day as a time of great ingathering—a sort of "harvest-home" day for the spiritual fruits of the year.

Quite in harmony with the above is the following paragraph from "The Christian Advocate" of New York:

Care for God's little ones is one of the most sacred of Christian duties. It may be partly manifested by the profusion of flowers and all the happy surroundings of Children's Day; but it ought not to end with these pleasant demonstrations. As we care for their bodies, to preserve them from illness, and for their minds, to secure the best education possible, much more should we care for their souls, and seek to bring them early to the Saviour; and no work will yield better returns to earnest labor.

To show that the above thoughts are not fanciful, but already being realized, we insert the following item from the "North-western Christian Advocate" of July 11, 1883:

Fourteen conversions have followed Children's Day at Reading, Illinois, and an increase of attendance.

Last year Rev. J. S. Hewitt, of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, reported:

A young gentleman was converted in our congregation Children's Day.

When that fact was mentioned in the Vermont Conference of the present year, a minister responded that in his congregation a similar event had occurred. We are glad to direct attention to this subject, and we invite further reports concerning it.

THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN.

NEW YORK HOUSE.

THE Agents of this House have been making special efforts for months past to supply reading-matter for Sunday-schools and young people.

Solid theological books are demanded by the ministry, and to a limited extent by the laity. They are the granite foundations upon which the whole structure of religious knowledge rests.

The masses may not see or admire these solid rocks, as they are buried beneath the surface, but on their broad shoulders they carry the weight of the whole building, and upon them it depends for strength and permanency.

Few will purchase or read books styled theological. Many have neither time nor mental training for severe study.

Hence it becomes the duty of the Christian Church to teach the fundamental truths of religion in forms which call for less mental exertion. Running through a story which attracts the young by its romantic interest may be the richest veins of Christian doctrine.

The truths found in our books and papers should be in harmony with the pulpit. If it be necessary to use less technical terms than those found in elementary works, the sentiments should be the same.

All the publications of the Methodist Book Concern should bear the denominational stamp. They should lead the inquiring young soul first to Christ, and then into his Church.

We do not insist that every book we publish should be strictly a religious book. There are histories with which every young person should become familiar. There are scientific questions which should be discussed. And so there are phases of social life which can be brought out in an attractive

style which may strengthen the moral forces, and aid in building up a solid character. But in all these books it is easy to show a respect for religion ; and as easy to throw in here and there expressions which indicate contempt for it.

A bias in historical books and those of general literature is almost unavoidable.

We are endeavoring by every possible means to secure a literature which tends to draw toward Christ and the Bible—one that shall make our young people purer and stronger.

We have, during the past quarter, perfected the list of books which have been in preparation for two years past under the name of "The Lyceum Library."

Here are two series of books—one for children, and another for youth. The material has been selected with great care by the Editor of the Sunday-School Department, and is put up in good, clear type and paper, and is sold at 10 cents a volume.

There is the same amount of matter in most of these books as those for which $1 is charged, when bound up in the ordinary book form.

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Taking every thing into the account, we know of nothing cheaper in the fruitful field of publishing houses.

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They are sold at *five cents* each, and where parties order one hundred at a time, they are furnished at three dollars and a half cash, the purchaser paying all costs of transportation, whether sent by mail or otherwise.

In the Sunday-school department of the MANUAL will be found a full statement of a plan for systematic reading for Lyceum Unions. It is not a Chautauqua course, but one contemplated by the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The General Conference has outlined a magnificent plan for giving direction to the mighty impulse of the young to read. Instead of discouraging the reading of modern popular literature for which many feel such earnest longing, the purpose is to make use of that literature in building up and perfecting a religious character.

Young people will read with interest under the stimulus of association what would otherwise be a burden. They love society. Here is an opportunity for them to spend their evenings together with permanent profit. We commend the "course of reading," in the article referred to, to the careful attention of those interested. If, in the growth of Lyceum Unions, other books are needed, we will be most happy to supply them.

The list announced embraces a great variety of subjects, and yet all of them are of great practical importance. They will be found classified under different heads, and present a sufficient variety for the different tastes and capacities of a widely extended Church. We sincerely hope our pastors who receive this MANUAL will call the attention of their young people to this new movement, and aid to the full extent of their power in making it a grand success.

We have also issued a choice list of books of our General Catalogue, which are adapted to the adult portions of our people. The lectures of Drs. Guard and Payne are exactly adapted to the improved and improving tastes of our membership, young and old. The work of Hugh Montgomery, the Irish minister, and the famous champion of temperance, will keep interest up to intense heat until the close of the book is reached. These are books which ought to find a place in every Sunday-school library.

We have also under headway quite a number of books for general reading, which will be announced in due time. We are ready to double the number of books for our Sunday-schools, if the schools are ready to purchase them.

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